



Ansley Church News

No. 709

JULY 1984

Price 10p

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Chapel End 392240

WORSHIP

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

3rd Sunday

11.00 a.m. Family Worship.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Holy Communion also on 1st Sunday at 8.00 a.m.

St. John's Hall—Family Worship at 10.00 a.m., July 29th.

BILLY GRAHAM

Coach to Villa Park, Wednesday, July 4th, 5.45 p.m. Ansley Common; 5.50 p.m. Birchley Heath; 5.55 to 6.00 p.m. Village.

FREE—NO NEED TO BOOK—ALL WELCOME.

LINE OF COINS

Meet 1.45 p.m. at 'Nelson Inn' on Saturday, July 7th.

Dear Friends,

One might be forgiven for being bored with the miners' dispute, as it fills our news media with scenes of battling police and workers and strikers in various parts of the country. There are serious faults on both sides. I would have thought that putting miners on an overtime ban (thus reducing wages) and **then** asking for an all-out strike was rather tactless! In addition there is a tendency for such disputes to end up being controlled by those who can open their mouths for the longest time and at the same time shout the loudest and shove the hardest. When that happens, it is inevitable that matters get out of control. Also (speaking as a former mining geologist) it is the height of lunacy for dogmatic statements to be made about 'no pit closures at any price.' Everyone knows that some pits get to a point where working conditions, profitability and geological conditions make further extraction totally unreasonable. And who wants to spend the majority of their underground life scratching away at tiny seams of coal?

As well as union obstinacy, the N.C.B. must also share some of the blame for not being entirely honest about the future plans for the industry. This can only generate mistrust and confusion. The N.C.B. problems are a product to government policies which are short on vision for industrialised areas where coal mining has vanished or is being threatened now. What has happened to plans for replacement work when the pits shut down? What plans were made for Arley after the shut down of that pit in 1968? Has enough thought been given to the type of industries that will be needed for the 21st century? No wonder the residents of such areas are showing their anger.

I fear that in this dispute we will all be losers, as what will be damaged most will not be the coal industry but the relationships between families and former friends. As a Christian Minister, one must honestly say that there is enough bitterness about in the world today without causing more problems. Let us pray that soon the real issues will be discussed honestly and openly by all 'sides' in this dispute.

Much of the tumult and strife is based on fear and insecurity about the immediate future of our industrial life. It is enormously difficult to act in such a situation as a responsible Christian. Jesus himself was constantly being challenged by this and that faction and throughout the ages people have claimed him as the supporter of their pet cause in order to try to prove they are in the right. But his work, his attitudes and his words are not really heard by those who use them to support their notions of political right and wrong. Instead Jesus is a constant challenge to us all. It was the shouters and the mobs who finally turned against him and showed up our universal sinfulness; but God has the last word, and by the resurrection and the giving of the Holy Spirit we are given new life and a new way of looking at the world. We could do with a new way of looking at things in this long dispute.

TIM GOULDSTONE

GLENN MARTIN

Some people in the parish will remember Glenn and Sally Martin who lived in Birmingham Road for a short time. They were a great help and support to the church in Ansley during the interregnum. Glenn's parents live in Ansley Common and his early memories of the church are of days spent at St. John's. Subsequently he became a member of the Church Army and later trained in psychiatric nursing at Coventry.

Glenn recently attended a conference which tested his vocation for the full-time ordained ministry and he was recommended for training. Glenn writes, 'I am naturally very pleased about this. I am writing to let the parish of Ansley know I commence training in September of this year at Queens College, Birmingham—the family (Sally and the two children) will remain in Nuneaton. I would value your prayerful support and encouragement at this time.'

We do indeed rejoice with Glenn and his family that the church has recognised his calling. He and his family will be in our prayers over the coming weeks as they take this major step in their life. I am glad to say that Glenn has accepted an invitation to speak at our Flower Festival at the evening service on August 26th.

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We talk about a 'vocation' to the Christian ministry as if it were something that only a few have. Yet everyone who is a baptised person and who professes to be a Christian has been given some gift by the Holy Spirit. The Collect that is used at the ordination service speaks not only of ordained men and women but also of all Christians:—'Almighty God, who for the salvation of mankind gives to his people many gifts and ministries to the advancement of his glory, stir up in us the gifts of his grace, and sustain each one of us in our own ministry.'

Does our Christian life and belief need 'stirring up'?

THOMAS EVERITT

The fight to preserve Ansley Church End School has reached the ears of Thomas Everitt, who now lives in New Zealand. He has written to Warwickshire County Council about the matter, and this year, in celebration of his 70th birthday, has generously provided the Bibles for presentation to the school leavers.

Mr. Everitt was born in 1914 and lived at 53 Birmingham Road, attending the school from 1918 to 1928 during the headmastership of Mr. Riley Brown and the incumbency of Charles Heaton and later of Mr. Couch. He spent many years in the Warwickshire Constabulary and retired in 1961 with the rank of Chief Inspector in the Leamington Spa division.

He emigrated to New Zealand in 1962 with his wife and two children. His son is now a barrister and solicitor and the Everitt's have six grandchildren.

We would like to thank Mr. Everitt for his generosity and his concern over the future of the school. There must be many people in the parish who remember him well.

CHURCH SALE AND FETE

This was blessed with fine weather (yes, it was 78°F in the shade, much more in the sun). For the first time we were able to use the Vicarage lawns and everything was 'outside.' The Church Hall, close by, is a good stop-gap in case of sudden thunderstorms! Everybody enjoyed themselves, although the metal detectors found no bars of gold in the lawn. Thank you to all who contributed and helped in practical ways with the stalls, games and food. £235 was made for church funds.

The Barn Dance was again well attended (around 150) and weather-wise another wonderful evening. A very enjoyable evening out. Thanks again to the trojan work in the kitchen and all those who spent their time setting everything up—and to Mr. and Mrs. Sutton for the use of their barn. £190 was made for hall funds.

CHURCH FABRIC

Various estimates are being obtained for the work on the church which was outlined in a leaflet that has (so far) reached the village and hopefully will later be distributed in Birchley Heath and Ansley Common. Estimates vary wildly (they always do) between about £4000 and £8000 but I think that over the next five years or so the latter figure is likely to be nearer the truth. The P.C.C. have decided to go ahead with this work when all estimates are obtained and we get the go-ahead. Meanwhile the bees are still there

SCHOOL NEWS

Some members of the Diocesan Board of Education came to look at Church End School on Wednesday, June 20th and were impressed by what they saw. The full Education Committee of Warwickshire County Council has voted that the school should be closed, but it was evident that this was a decision based on political and financial grounds rather than on the standard of education actually being offered at Church End School.

The Diocesan authorities will now approach the Secretary of State for Education directly. It is likely that an official closure notice will be served on the school by the council some time in September, but meanwhile parents and other interested parties are asked to write to the M.P. for North Warwickshire—Francis Maude—The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. He has offered to arrange a meeting with Keith Joseph at Westminster in the Autumn.

BILLY GRAHAM COACH

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4th TO VILLA PARK

Response to this phase of 'Mission England' have exceeded all expectations. In Bristol, 243,500 people attended the meetings. I heard him on the radio a few weeks ago and was greatly impressed by the clarity of his presentation of the Christian message; and by his comments that Sunderland was definitely

colder than Alaska! Mission England is not about 'mass evangelism' but about personal evangelism on a mass scale (like the early Christians).

Several people have asked me about the coach times; they are—

Ansley Common (St. John's Hall)	5.45 p.m.
Birchley Heath	5.50 p.m.
Village	5.55 to 6.00 p.m.

You don't have to book, just get on—first come, first served!

LINE OF COINS

This event proved a great success two years ago so we thought we would try it again, this time the enormously enlarged task of joining the 'Nelson' to Church End (what?). Just turn up in Birmingham Road at about 1.45 p.m. on Saturday, July 7th. Meanwhile, make sure you save all your loose change.

PEOPLE

Mr. Bradley and Mrs. Ford of Bretts Hall are home again, but Mrs. Harper of Ansley Common has not been very well. It was good to see Mr. Wall back home in Birchley Heath—an example of a family that always seems cheerful in adversity. Mrs. Allton of Birchley Heath is making good progress. I'm glad to say that the population of Ansley has stopped falling off motor bikes for the time being, but a relative of one of our parishioners escaped very serious injury last month in Coleshill Road, Chapel End. The daughter-in-law of Mrs. Ridgeway of Ansley Common was struck in the face by a large stone that was picked up by a lorry tyre and passed through the windscreen of the following car. We must be increasingly concerned about the large quantity of stony material that is being spilled on the roads of our parish—it is surely only a matter of time before something even more serious than this occurs. I have noticed a considerable build-up of stones on the footpath at Church End since the Manpower Services people tidied it up a few weeks ago. Stones over 20 lb. in weight are falling off the lorries.

BAPTISM

June 17—Michelle Bromley, 119 Birmingham Road.