



Ansley Church News

No. 721

JULY 1985

Price 10p

Vicar: The Revd. T. M. GOULDSTONE, M.Sc.,
The Vicarage,
Birmingham Road, Ansley.
Tel.: Chapel End 392240

COFFEE EVENING

at the Vicarage on Tuesday, July 2nd at 7.30 p.m. Admission 30p.
Bring and Buy, Raffle, Refreshments. ALL WELCOME.

SONGS OF PRAISE

at Ansley on Sunday, July 14th at 6.30 p.m.

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| Bus will run—St. Wilfrid's, Arley | 5.45 p.m. |
| St. Michael's, Arley | 5.55 p.m. |
| Village | 6.00 p.m. |
| Ansley Common | 6.10 p.m. |
| Birchley Heath | 6.20 p.m. |

Returning at 7.45 p.m., from Ansley Church.

Dear Friends,

One of my favourite books is 'A field Guide to the English Country Parson'—it makes us sound like some interesting and varied breed of animal, which in fact we are! In the four years that we have been at Ansley I have often thought on the duties both official and unofficial of the person known as the parson, the vicar, the rector, (or worse). What an interesting exercise it would be to gather together in one place the eleven vicars of Ansley that some of our older residents can remember since Charles Heaton came here in 1892—and what different ideas and views they would have.

Yet the list of vicars in the church is in one way totally misleading. The Church is a body of people dedicated to a common belief in the significance of Jesus Christ, to a belief in the reality of his resurrection and his life. The Cross and the Resurrection are not two abstract and irrelevant matters, but very practical for all of us. **The Cross** speaks of the sacrifices of life, the suffering and pain that we find difficult, where we ask questions just like the Lord himself did when he asked God why he had forsaken him. **The Resurrection** is the ground of our hope and our faith—when we come to the Communion service we are saying that we believe in the Cross and we believe in Resurrection; and as the new baptism service says, 'This is the faith of the Church.'

An ordained clergyman shares with people their own experiences of the Cross and of Resurrection, of sorrow and of joy. This is always a rewarding and ultimately enriching experience. And it is by no means one-way. I am often inspired by the faith of people who may never give much conscious thought to their faith but who deep down know that the Lord Jesus Christ is giving them strength and comfort. It can be a difficult business trying to reconcile the problems of the visible church buildings, etc., with a Christian ministry to people—often we spend too long fretting about the fabric and too short an agenda directed towards people, yet unless people are always first the church will be an empty shell of tradition and nostalgia with no contemporary relevance.

We as a Vicarage Family would like to thank all those who have helped us here in Ansley and provided us with local knowledge and spiritual insight. David has been born while we were at Ansley and Rebecca has grown from a baby (or is the local word 'babby') to a lively 4½ year-old. Although they refer to Ansley's familiar tower as 'Daddy's Church' it really belongs to you and you have been good stewards of it during the past few years.

The parish has changed a great deal over the four years. Sadly we have have lost our school at Church End but as

Christian people we must look for the possibilities of Resurrection out of this experience. Some older faces have passed from our sight but there are some new ones.

We expect to move at the end of July and anyone who is visiting in Cornwall or on holiday there is welcome to call at the Vicarage at St. Keverne. Once again thank you for your generosity and for the memories you have given us as a family.

TIM, JANE, DAVID AND REBECCA.

NAME THAT CHILD !

The study of baptismal registers can be of great interest to those seeking information about their ancestors, but even recent entries can yield information about trends in our choice of names for children.

Over the past four years 65 children have been baptised in Ansley, 42 girls and 23 boys. It looks as though the men will be outnumbered in the future. The tables below give the most common names during the period 1981-1985:

First Christian Name—Claire 4, Sarah 4, Steven 3, Andrew 3.

Second Christian Name (where given)—Louise 6, John 4, Ann or Anne 3.

Most Common Christian Name overall—Louise 7, David 5, John 5, Steven 4, Sarah or Sara 4, Claire 4, Elizabeth 3, Paul 3, James 3.

Three girls were baptised 'Claire Louise.' On a more sober note, eight fathers were unemployed, about the area average of 16 to 17 per cent.

As a matter of interest in 1980 an extensive survey was carried out which gave the following as the most common names nationally:

Boys—Matthew, David, Paul, Stephen, Daniel; **Girls**—Emma, Claire, Sarah, Kelly, Rebecca.

So Ansley pretty well follows the national trends !

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A recent report has been published on the church in rural parts of England called **Rural Anglicanism: a future for young Christians ?** The question mark at the end of the title indicates that there is some uncertainty about how the Church of England is going to maintain its ministry in the future in rural areas—the Archbishop of Canterbury has described the report as 'devastating'—so he obviously learnt a thing or two about the deep country from it !

I haven't seen the book, but it reflects an uncertainty about country life that is not confined to the Churches. Many rural

communities find it difficult to keep any organisation going, whether sacred or secular and the churches are influenced by the same outlook which we all now have, which prefers to centre our social life on our home or some event in the nearest town. The churches in particular can occasionally put buildings before the needs of people which is always a big mistake.

And yet there are signs of hope—the church is one of the organisations in a country area which consistently organises social events and holds regular meetings, and this has been maintained in post-war England in the teeth of some tremendous changes. It does appear that as long as parishes can move forward in unity and with a common purpose then life will flourish. Where there are lots of groups trying to do their own thing without mutual support then everyone gets tired and recriminations start! We are much better off in Ansley parish than many a rural community, but we must support what we have and progress towards the future. The message of the report was clear to all in the country concerning their facilities—use it or lose it! We are the ones who make up our minds about our parish facilities, and if we are slow to pick up the challenge then our minds will be made up for us by powers within the Church and within the State who may be remote from our everyday life. We've still got a lot of things to be thankful for in our parish so let's value them and keep them.

The Summer Fete at the Vicarage was fortunately held on a fine Saturday—it was just as well it wasn't on the next Saturday which was just about the wettest and coldest June day one can remember (actually colder than some days in February). Just over £200 was made for Church Funds and we are very grateful to everyone who came and who helped with the arrangements and stalls and refreshments.

The Coffee Morning at Mrs. Salisbury's was also very pleasant and proved a good meeting point for the parish and the two MU's.

There will be a 'Songs of Praise' at Ansley Church on Sunday, July 14th at 6.30 p.m., when the four parishes of the Ley Group will be sharing in our worship. Make it a crowd.

There will a Coffee Evening at the Vicarage on Tuesday, July 2nd at 7.30 p.m., when (if it finally stops raining) we might be able to get outside as well; details on the cover of the magazine.

The Vicar recently had an enquiry about the parish from a Mr. Parker of Kenilworth. His great-grandfather, John Palmer farmed Springfield and Rye Hills and was buried at Ansley in 1890. He wondered if anyone remembered Matilda Redfern who lived in Ansley until 1927 and was his relative.

The Rev'd Peter Phillips of Arley is recovering after his recent operation and is now able to take services again. He and Mr. Law of Fillongley and Corley will be 'minding' the parish during the interregnum. We have people already booked to take the services until October 13th (Harvest Festival) with the exception of 8.00 a.m. Communion on August 4th and the St. John's Hall service on August 25th. These services will be cancelled—please note.

The worship for the first two weeks of the interregnum will be as follows:

- July 28—10.00 a.m. St. John's Hall—Glenn or Sally Martin.
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion—Revd. Peter Buckler.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer—Mr. Joe Fisher.
- Aug. 4— 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion—Cancelled.
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion—Revd. John Law.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer—Mr. Glenn Martin.

Further details of worship in interregnum on notice board in church porch.

'Len' Smith of St. Lawrence Road had served the parish as a councillor and his sudden death came as a shock to his many friends. Frank Lakin had been in ill health and will be missed by his three sons Stanley, Alan and Mark. Mrs. Jessie Scattergood had been very frail for a number of years during which she had been cared for by her daughter Ruth. She died peacefully at home after returning from hospital following an operation after a fall. She will be missed by her family but we can thank God that her suffering is now at an end. At 91 she was about the oldest inhabitant in Ansley. Absalom Hall was very well known as a result of his friendships made over the years in the plumbing business. His sudden death while out with his wife was mourned by many at his funeral at Chapel End United Reformed Church. To the relatives and friends of the above we offer our prayers and comfort.

FUNERALS

- June 5—Leonard Smith, 23 St. Lawrence Road, aged 65.
June 11—Frank Lakin, 118 Birmingham Road, aged 78.
June 19—Jessie Scattergood, 98 Birmingham Road, aged 91.
June 21—Absalom Hall, 115 Coleshill Road, aged 65.

BAPTISM

- June 23—Gemma Louise Wright, 83 Birmingham Road.