

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 781

JULY 1990

Price 13p



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Bus Timetable for 6.30 p.m. Evening Service

Ansley Village turn 6.00 p.m.
Birchley Heath Post Office 6.10 p.m.
Ansley Common St. John's 6.20 p.m.
Return Journey from Parish Church 7.45 p.m.

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel.: 382902

Ansley Vicarage,

July 1st, 1990

Our Dear Friends,

Some years ago a Social Researcher told the National Marriage Guidance Council Conference that instead of getting married it may be better just to live together. So is there something to be said for sleeping with one's boy friend as a test of compatibility?

Seemingly the answer is 'yes' if your judgement is based upon the number of couples who take the Social Researcher's advice. It can sound quite a persuasive argument and of course there is a lot to be said for testing matters very carefully before being committed to what should be after all, a life-long partnership. Marriage is one of the biggest decisions a person will ever make and commitment to one partner is undoubtedly a serious step. To rely upon sleeping with one another as a test of compatibility could be disastrous. What of those who fail, and eventually break up? A little later one of the couple begins a new romance, and makes a similar experiment. What is the likely outcome? The outcome is the tragedy of the current matrimonial scene; certain people develop a taste for sleeping around. Having done so before marriage, is the habit going to be broken after marriage? Unfortunately not.

At the present time Britain is making a spectacular failure of marriage—and one of the causes is that most people have been pleased to ignore the Christian restraints on 'experimental relationships.' Hence the brittleness of family life today, with its insecurity, depression, rejection and loneliness which quickly follow. It is a pity when a person finally comes to their eventual marriage partner somewhat 'secondhand.' Trial marriages are dicey and where they are practiced true marriage cannot be known.

History records that no nation can survive the disintegration of its home life. The real problem lies not so much with the institution of marriage but with the individuals who live within it. In the 20th century it is not so much a matter of marriage having been tried and found wanting, marriage is largely untried. Too many couples seek refuge in separation and divorce. What are some of the reasons for this dismal state of affairs? Experts list at least three. (1) Society's increasing acceptance of temporary marriages, (2) Inadequate preparation for marriage, (3) Sexual involvement before marriage.

The Chinese have an old saying which goes like this, 'In a broken nest there are no whole eggs.' It is an act of God's grace that the Christian Faith introduces to us the Lord Jesus Christ whose main work is to mend broken things. "Lord please mend what is broken in my life." Make that your prayer whatever the problem and God will bless you.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR JULY

Sunday, July 1st — Trinity 3

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.00 p.m. Evening Service at St. Michael's, New Arley.

Tuesday, July 3rd

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union in the Church Hall.
Speaker: Mrs. Chilvers from the Christian Bookshop.

Wednesday, July 4th

- 8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Friday, July 6th

- 6.45 p.m. till 12 midnight Prayer Time in Church.

Saturday, July 7th

- Afternoon Strawberry Teas at St. John's.

Sunday, July 8th — Trinity 4

- 11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "What Christ thinks of the Church."

Monday, July 9th

- 8.00 p.m. Mission Committee at the Vicarage.

Wednesday, July 11th

- Ansley Ladies' Association Mystery Trip.

Friday, July 13th

- 6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, July 15th — Trinity 5

- 11.00 a.m. Family Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Friday, July 20th

- 6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, July 22nd — Trinity 6

- 10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's.
- 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, 1662 Prayer Book.

Friday, July 27th

- 6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, July 29th

- 11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Guest Service. "The Grand Invitation."

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism "Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ,"

June 10—Amy Natasha Sperring of Ansley Village.

Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child

"They brought Children for Jesus to bless,"

June 17—Louise Roper, Sara Jane Roper of Ansley Common.

Kathryn Jean Smedley of Ansley Village,

Emma Louise Warden of Ansley Village.

Holy Matrimony

"To be faithful to each other as long as you live"

May 26—James Smith to Margaret Iwaniw both of Ansley Common.

On Sunday, July 1st the Evening Service will be at St. Michael's, New Arley commencing at 6.00 p.m. The bus will run $\frac{1}{2}$ hour earlier than usual, 5.30 p.m. at the Village, 5.40 Birchley Heath and 5.45 at the Common. There will be no Evening Service at our own Parish Church on that evening.

Strawberry Teas will be served at St. John's on Saturday afternoon July 7th, please ask if you would like transport. Any offers of help will be appreciated by Judith Wilson, her telephone number is 396085.

Guest Service is on Sunday, July 29th being the fifth Sunday in the month. Invite your friends for tea and bring them along to the service. If you would like to choose a hymn please hand in your choice to the Wardens well in advance of the service.

In preparation for the Church Army visit in September the Committee are planning a series of prayer meetings. The first of these takes place on Friday, July 6th and follows on from the weekly prayer time commencing 6.45 p.m. Please ask David Cove if you would like to join this prayer vigil so that there will be at least one in prayer from the beginning until midnight.

The Mothers' Union has an interesting speaker this month, Mrs. Ruth Chilvers, She will be speaking about the bookshop in Queen's Road, Nuneaton and their preparations for the move to a better position in the town.

The Prayer for the Church Army visit to us in September, 15th-30th is included here and we are all encouraged to use it daily—Almighty God, you chose us to be members of this Church; May we as a congregation reach out to others in the Parish during the coming weeks of mission. Send us out with the power of the Holy Spirit as witnesses of your love and of the joy of knowing you. Over the mission weeks may many open their eyes to the Light of the World through our work in your name; That they may call you Lord and receive the gift of eternal life.

To you, Lord, be the glory for now and ever. Amen.

The Flower Festival—August 24th-27th. Preparations are in hand for this event. Do please offer your help. Assistance is needed for many jobs. Do make contact with Mrs. Kathleen Berridge or Frank Arnold or David Cove or Margaret Antill.

You will notice that work is beginning on repairs to the Church building. The list of jobs being done are as follows—Pointing stone joints to the base of the Tower; South-West window; South side of Nave; North wall; Tower pinnacles and louvres; Complete repairs to the six clerestory windows.

Together with the architect's fees the total cost is expected to be just under £5,000. Our Gift Day last month will help us towards payment of this bill, but will by no means be sufficient to meet it. If you would like to make a special contribution please hand your gift to the Wardens or the Treasurer Mrs. Marcia Sutton.

The masonry contractors undertaking the work are Wragg Bros. Ltd., of Kings Heath, Birmingham.

I praise you Lord,
And lift you high,
For what you've done for me,
You sent your Son
In flesh and blood,
He died to set me free.

And now I'm free,
In the Father's love,
I'm free to do His will,
I'm free from death and hell and sin,
I'm free to love Him still.

I praise you for the sunshine,
I praise you for the sea,
I praise you for the birds that sing,
You've done it all for me.

I praise you that you intercede
For us, up there right now,
Though sinful, I am faultless,
Though black, I'm white as snow.

Rebekah Jasper.