

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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Arrangements for Baptisms, Banns, Weddings and Funerals should now be made with the Vicar.

WORSHIP

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays in each month

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

3rd Sunday

11.00 a.m. Family Service

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion

1st Sunday

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday School each Sunday at 11.00 a.m., in the Village Church Hall except on the third Sunday when it will attend the service in Church.

The Vicar will not normally be available on Tuesdays.

DEAR FRIENDS,

HAVING NO HOPE AND WITHOUT GOD IN THE WORLD . . . so Paul describes those in the church when they were strangers to the Christian message. Notice that they were without God **in the world**. For many God is located in heaven along with harps, clouds, cherubs etc., but Jesus came so that he can be found by us here and now. Jesus says to us, 'I am what God is like; I do the things God does; follow me.'

Recently our television screens have been filled with violence and fear from near at hand as mobs burn and loot in English towns. The surprising thing is that this did not happen years ago. It is easy to reach for an instant solution, the 'short, sharp shock', or for others who follow a Powellite line a simplistic answer to 'send the blacks back home.' Often these ideas come from those who are far removed from the experience of being unemployed in a life that offers little security and no ultimate meaning. So crowds gather, there is aimless looting, stoning of police and burning of cars by those who in Paul's words have no hope and are without God in the world.

What we have seen recently is partly our fault, if we call ourselves Christians. For decades we have been guilty of maintaining the past, not to serve the present but at the expense of the present. We ought to be thinking, planning, teaching and doing in ways that speak to today's world, especially the children and young adults who are beginning to see that material benefits are not everything. A small step in this direction will be taken this autumn with a club for our young children (see what Val Whitworth has written in this magazine). We must go on to cater for older ones as well—hopefully this will follow in the near future.

ECONOMICS. . . .

. . . . is forcing us (thank God) to examine our whole approach to the support of Christian work, not just in Ansley but throughout the world. We ought to be thinking and planning **now** for the future. The old ways of financing from 'fund raising' largely outside the Christian community offer no hope of sensible budgeting and planning. The result is ever more desperate measures to keep the show on the road while the level of the regular giving drops rapidly. At our September PCC we will be considering what the future holds and asking ourselves, 'What am I prepared to do about it?'

THE ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll for this Parish is many years out of date and I have found it next to useless in discovering where people live! The church in Ansley is supposed to have a membership of 156 according to the numbers on the roll, but many have moved, and no less than 52 (or one-third) of them live outside the parish. Quite a number of our regular worshipping members are not on the roll and, sad to say, many others do not seem over-bothered about regularity in worship. To be on the electoral roll you have to be baptised and a member of the Church of England or a Church in communion with the Church of England. You must either be resident in the parish or (if you live outside the parish) 'have habitually attended public worship there for at least the past six months.' The Church Representation Rules state that a person may be removed from the roll if he or she is not resident in the parish and has not attended public worship in the parish during the preceeding six months. This does not apply to those who cannot attend because they are housebound on account of age or long-term illness.

The Roll should have been completely reconstituted in 1972, and at intervals of every six years. It should correspond as closely as possible with the active membership of the local church; it seems that next Spring we shall have to undertake a drastic revision! Whatever happens, membership should never be just a matter of signing on the dotted line of the enrolment form.

TIM GOULDSTONE

QUESTION TIME — No. 1

Can't you be a Christian without going to church?

In one sense you can, because going to church doesn't make you a Christian! However there are at least five reasons which should encourage us and help us to encourage others in regular worship.

- (1) **THE FAMILY REASON** — There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. Although Christian commitment begins with the individual, it cannot end there. We have become so used to doing our own thing in life that we have almost forgotten this. And the times when the church has been strong have been the times when people have acted **together**. The emphasis on personal faith leading to family worship is evident from the Bible.
- (2) **THE TEACHING REASON** — Christianity is a school as well as a family. As we meet together for regular worship we learn more about the faith (and there is no reason why our meeting together for worship should be confined to Sundays!)
- (3) **THE TRAINING REASON** — We receive truth about God and about his will for this world so that we may share it with others. In some parishes in this country Christians are meeting together in order to train themselves to share their faith with others.
- (4) **THE BALANCED REASON** — God has planned a rhythm in life which applies to the creation and to ourselves. On one day in seven, as far as possible, we meet together out of love and gratitude to God and in thanksgiving to Christ our Saviour.
- (5) **THE BIBLICAL REASON** — "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing" (Hebrews 10:25). Remember also Jesus' example; he went to the synagogue on the sabbath to worship God.

But what happens when we get to church? What do we find in our worship and is it real and relevant? See next month's question.

GFS — ANSLEY BRANCH

We hope to start a branch of the Girls' Friendly Society in Ansley in September. GFS is a society for girls aged 6 to 10 and boys are also very welcome to join.

Members meet weekly. They aim to be a part of the church, to learn about Jesus, play games, sing songs, make handwork, read stories, go on outings and generally have fun. GFS was begun in England just over 100 years ago and is now an international organisation. We hope that **all** youngsters of 6 to 10 who are interested will come along with their friends and see what happens. The first meeting will be on **Saturday, 5th September**, when we will join members of four other Coventry Diocese branches for a picnic and sports day. This should be a very happy occasion and we hope that many Sunday School members as well as new friends will join us to launch this new branch. For details please see the Vicar, or Mrs. Valerie Whitworth (Chapel End 393626) or Mrs. Micheline Bond (Chapel End 392963).

VALERIE WHITWORTH

ST. JOHN'S LUNCHEON CLUB, ANSLEY COMMON

A Luncheon Club for senior citizens will be held in St. John's Hall each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12.45 p.m., commencing Monday, 3rd. August. Mrs. Freeman of 101 Plough Hill Road is the organiser and she is anxious that anyone who would like to become a member should contact her at home or phone Chapel End 392100. Transport might be available for those who find walking difficult. The idea behind the club is that those who spend much time at home can get out and have an hour or so in the company of others as well as having a good meal without having to cook it.

THE CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

The annual Flower Festival at St. Laurence will take place from Friday, August 28th., at 6.00 p.m., to Monday, August, 31st., at 7.00 p.m. The church will be decorated with flowers depicting the theme "Jesus came to save all people." It will be open all day each day until 9.30 p.m. Please make this well known, tell your friends and bring them to the church sometime during this weekend. There will be a service in church at 8.00 p.m., on the Friday evening and on Sunday at 11.00 a.m., and 6.30 p.m.

On Monday evening at 8.00 p.m., there will be a concert in church given by the Daw Mill and Arley Brass Band. Admission is free but there will be a collection.

All cash received throughout the Festival will be divided between the General Fund and help for handicapped children. Refreshments will be on sale at the tent and there will be a stall of garden produce. Gifts for these will be very welcome.

FRANK ARNOLD

NOTES AND NEWS

Many thanks to those who give so much of their time and care to the churchyard. We came second this year in the North Warwickshire section, being beaten by Corley (although I hear they have a much smaller patch to mow!). Thanks too to Mr. Collins of 'The Beeches' for the new wrought iron gate to the vault under the chancel. I am sure the Ludford family would have been impressed by this artistic addition to the entrance to their family vault.

BAPTISM

We welcome into the family of the Church (July 19th)
Rebecca Louise Martin, 135 Coleshill Road.

LAID TO REST

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies." (John 11:25).

29th June—Winifred Pudge, 28 St. John's Road, Ansley Common, Aged 73.

WHAT'S ON

- 13—Coffee Evening—Mr. and Mrs. Wolliscroft, Wood Barn Farm
- 16—3.30 p.m. Baptism service
- 18—Village Church Hall Committee (8.00 p.m. at Cloverfield Cottage)
- 28—31 Flower Festival
- 4 September—PCC meeting at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Church Hall