

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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Dear Friends,

I suppose the hedge beside the road from the village to the church must be very familiar to you. It's something we take for granted, but it is full of interest.

Even walking 'non-stop' to evening worship a few weeks ago I detected 14 types of plants—many of which I didn't know. Some are quite substantial, like the hawthorn, oak and holly. Some are lowly plants that you have to look for carefully. But they all have one thing in common.

They all have roots.

We talk about people having 'roots.' By this we usually mean one place, a village or town, or even a particular street in a neighbourhood. It is valuable and comforting to have roots in one area like this. But it can be used to keep people out, to suspect the stranger, the 'newcomer,' even when the family have lived in the village for a number of years. We become defensive and inward-looking. We resent change and try to hold back the tide of new people, new ideas and new aspects to our community. We long for the 'old days' when (we think) we 'knew everyone'

Yes, things **were** different, some times **were** better than now but they will be different again in 50 years time ! We need to look elsewhere for our real roots, even though we value our families, our community, our background, our friends of the years.

Think of that hedge—a great variety of plants, all blending together to live **in the present moment**, doing something useful **today**.

You might say the hedge is a picture—a parable—of the Christian life. Paul wrote to the little church at Colossae;

Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord,
live in union with him;
keep your roots deep in him
become stronger in the faith, as you were taught;
and be filled with thanksgiving.

Colossians 2 : 6-7.

The Church of God consists of men and women who have not only been rooted in Christ Jesus but have kept on growing in their knowledge of him. Have you ?

Yours sincerely,

TIM GOULDSTONE.

UNITY, COMMUNION AND ROOTS

The Church of England's 'no' to the Covenant for Unity last month seems yet again to cut us off from a true sharing in the life of our fellow-Christians in the Methodist and URC churches. One begins to wonder if unity from the top is the right way to go about it. Throughout the country Christians in different denominations are increasingly working together on the basis of their common roots in Christ Jesus as Lord.

One or two people have asked me about taking communion in Ansley. **Everyone** who is a full member of any church—Roman Catholic, Methodist, United Reformed, Baptist, etc. — which confesses a faith in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is

welcome to Communion here. On what grounds can I or anyone else say 'no' to a Christian from another denomination who wishes to share bread and wine at the Lord's Table? The qualification for receiving communion is that we are ourselves in communion with the living God through Christ—that we are rooted in Him. It might repay us if every time we came to communion we examined our own lives (as we are supposed to) to see how we stand before God—it can easily become routine, and we forget the cost of Christ's Cross.

THOUGHTS

The resurrection did not result in a committee with a chairman but a fellowship with an experience. Anon.

. . . . AND CONVICTION

A friend once met the atheist David Hume hurrying along a London street and asked him where he was going. Hume replied that he was going to hear the famous preacher George Whitefield. 'but surely,' his friend asked him in astonishment, 'you don't believe what Whitefield preaches, do you?' 'No, I don't,' answered Hume 'but he does!'

NOTES AND NEWS

Many thanks to all who contributed to our 'Line of Coins' on July 10th. We laid 132 yards, totalling £119. Some extra gifts were given so the final total was £150 for redecoration fund. When the money was put in a sack we were unable to lift it!

Our prayers and sympathy go to the family and friends of the late Mr. Walter Bailey of Birmingham Road who died last month after a long illness. He and his wife have the benefit of a supportive and loving family. To them and to others, thank you.

Mrs. Denise Charnell who moved from Ansley Common to Mancetter only a short time ago lost her husband in a tragic accident. Our thoughts are with her two children and with the families of her two sisters who still live on 'The Common.' Mrs. Charnell ran the 'Toddlers' Group on Ansley Common until recently and has started a similar work at Mancetter.

On July 12th the GFS in the Village put on a concert. I think just about everyone contributed their 'piece' and most of us will remember 'St. George and the Dragons' for a long time! GFS will resume in September—meanwhile thanks to Valerie Whitworth, Joan McParland and Micheline Bond for their help and enthusiasm and for all who have enabled this organisation to flourish this year.

Notice to children—please don't play on the roof of the Village Church Hall! It is dangerous for you and no good for the roof. Remember the fence behind the Hall is to keep you out as well as to keep the horses in.

We welcome to the village the Costin family who have moved to Nuthurst Crescent from Enfield. We say goodbye to the Mumford family from Birmingham Road, but they are only moving as far as Stockingford.

'Fun Day' developments continue. More news in a parish circular in a couple of weeks. Book the date—21st August at Sutton's Farm.

The Flower Festival will take place on Bank Holiday weekend as usual. The theme of this year's festival is 'Service—to God and Man.'

We acknowledge with gratitude the gift of £85 in memory of Mr. Walter Bailey; £156 in memory of Mrs. Biggs of Hinckley; £250 in memory of Mr. Knight.

Ansley came first in the area in the district judging of the Warwickshire Rural Community Council's competition for the 'Best Kept Churchyard.' Corley was second! Hopes were high that we might get our 'lollipop' back, but the County Final results were as follows: (Churchyards) 1st Barford (St. Peter); 2nd Wootton Wawen (St. Peter); 3rd Allesley (All Saints). In spite of the award migrating to the Warwick area many thanks for those who keep our churchyard tidy and neat. What about an outing to Barford one day? The awards are to be presented on September 4th—we get a certificate.

DIARY FOR AUGUST

1—8th Sunday after Trinity.

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said).

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

8—9th Sunday after Trinity.

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

10—St. Laurence—Deacon and Martyr, A.D. 258.

15—10th Sunday after Trinity.

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

21—FUN DAY—watch for further announcements!

22—11th Sunday after Trinity.

10.00 a.m. Family Service, St. John's Hall.

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

27-30—FLOWER FESTIVAL.

Friday 27th 8.00 p.m. Evening Service.

29—12th Sunday after Trinity.

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. Preacher: The Bishop of Warwick, the Rt. Rev. Keith A. Arnold.

BAPTISM

July 18—Natalie Graham, 401 Tunnel Road.

FUNERALS

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.'

June 25—Edith Annie Biggs, aged 76 (lately of Hinckley).

July 16—Walter Bailey, aged 78, 177 Birmingham Road.

July 20—Horace Judd, aged 71, formerly of Railway Terrace, Ansley Common.

July 26—Eva Maude Baskett, aged 85, 24 St. John's Road, Ansley Common.