

# ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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The Vicar would like to hear of cases of sickness. Please send messages to the Vicarage.

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Ansley Vicarage

August 1st, 1987

Our Dear Friends,

It is very true to say that the thing most people are searching for today is freedom. We all want to be free. Free to do what we like when we like and how we like. Perhaps it is because of this desire within us all that holidays are so much looked forward to. Getting married is another expression of freedom. Young people want to be free to do what they like. Marriage, they feel, is a respectable way of getting free from the shackles of their parents and the old home. Getting married in Church continues to receive popular approval; but what goes wrong with the 49% of marriages that end in divorce courts? Freedom is imagined to mean independence; but I am convinced that marriage should not be looked at as gaining freedom or independence, rather that of surrender and dependence.

In the summer of 1776 at the State House in Philadelphia, delegates from 13 colonies came together to discuss the future of the North American Continent. The conference listened to each delegate then finally asked its oldest and wisest member for his opinion. Benjamin Franklin rose to his feet and spoke a few words from Psalm 127. From this brief talk came the spiritual foundation of the United States of America and the Declaration of Independence. Benjamin Franklin said, "We have been assured in the sacred writings that 'Except the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this, he went on, and without the Lord's concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel." Benjamin Franklin suggested a time of prayer, the conference then found unity and the United States was born. The date was July 4th, 1776.

You see, America didn't really begin with the Declaration of Independence but with a **declaration of dependence** as each delegate responded to the call to prayer. We too need to exercise our freedom by personally committing ourselves to declare our dependence on the Lord. Our labouring to build a nice home and family will not then be in vain for the Lord will be the architect and the builder. From such dependence the fabric of our parish life can be affected for God.

Include in your prayers the request that the Lord will equip each of us to be growing in dependence on Him and dedicated active Christians.

God Bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

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#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AUGUST

**Sunday, August 2nd — Trinity 7**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer — "Deliver us from evil."



**Sunday, August 9th — Trinity 8**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer — "For Thine is the Kingdom."

**Sunday, August 16th — Trinity 9**

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

**Sunday, August 23rd — Trinity 10**

10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer — "What does praying achieve?"

**Friday, August 28th — FLOWER FESTIVAL**

6.00 p.m. Festival Commences.

7.00 p.m. Short Service followed by refreshments in the marquee.

**Saturday, August 29th**

Church open for viewing from 10.00 a.m. and marquee open for farm produce sale and refreshments.

**Sunday, August 30th — Trinity 11**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Special Festival Evening Service. Preacher: The Rev. Adrian Mairs, Vicar of Mancetter. (Church open for viewing during the day).

**Monday, August 31st**

Church open for viewing from 10.00 a.m. and marquee open for farm produce sale and refreshments. There will also be a book stall.

7.30 p.m. **Musical Evening in Church** by members of the local Centre Theatre Company (Gilbert and Sullivan) with Instrumentalists. This will be a most enjoyable evening. Please tell your friends and bring them. Collection at the end.

**FLOWER FESTIVAL** this year commences on Friday, August 28th at 6.00 p.m. A short service will be held in Church at 7.00 p.m., and the marquee will be open afterwards for refreshments. On Saturday the Church will be open for viewing all day from 10.00 a.m. Refreshments and sale of work will be available in the marquee.

On Sunday the special festival services will be at 11.00 a.m. Parish Communion and 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer at which the Rev. Adrian Mairs, Vicar of Mancetter will be the preacher. On Monday the Church and marquee will be open all day. The display of flowers will depict scenes from the Holy Week events. The proceeds will be shared between Friends of Nuneaton Hospitals and Church funds.

**CONGRATULATIONS** go to Douglas Feather in gaining a Batchelor of Science degree in Mathematics 1st class honours. Douglas has clearly worked hard for this award. When he is at home we are always glad to have him join us in worship on

Sundays. He has recently been appointed a member of our P.C.C. We remember him in prayer this month as he goes to France with the Evangelistic Organisation known as Operation Mobilisation.

**THE CHURCH YARD** has been looking good in recent weeks. We do thank all who are working hard to keep it neat, those known and unknown who cut, rake, weed, dig, and trim. We look forward to hearing the results of the Judge's verdict in the competition for the best kept Church Yard in the Diocese for 1987.

**MEETING FOR PRAYER** every Friday in Church at 6.45 p.m., and lasts for just half an hour.

#### **TEARFUND**

A letter has been received from Tearfund acknowledging the receipt of £216.22 raised by Ansley Parish from the Lent appeal. The letter details two ways in which Tearfund is responding to disasters around the world. Lesotho has been provided with £40,000 worth of seed packs after a six-year drought, and relief supplies amounting to £33,500 have been allocated to Lebanon.

I should like to thank all of you who contributed to the Lent appeal, and invite you to continue to support Tearfund.

Diana Kealey

#### **NOAH'S ARK**

Once there was a man called Noah. One day he was in the garden when he heard the voice of God it seemed to be saying Noah soon there will be a very big flood you must collect a pair of every animal in the whole world. Right at once he started building a gigantic ark. In about two days the ark was ready. Next he tried to tell all his friends but they wouldn't listen to him. When the rain started it was only a little drizzle and everybody laughed and said call this a storm they said. But suddenly there was a great big flash from the sky and the storm started hurry up we must start collecting animals at once. Soon all of the ark was nearly flooded with animals. Well said Noah that's the first day of our forty days and forty nights. On the thirty-ninth day of the flood Noah sent a white dove to find land and it came back with a green leaf so they followed it to a hill where they built their house. So Noah had saved the world.

Ian Niblock, aged 9

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#### **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

##### **Baptisms**

"Believe and be Baptised"

July 5—Wesley Thomas Green of Springfield Farm, Ansley.

July 19—Leanne Maria Smith of Birmingham Road, Ansley.

### **Dedications**

"They brought children to Him to bless"

July 5—Michael Lapworth and Alan Lapworth of St. Laurence Road.

### **Marriages**

"The two shall be one"

June 27—Paul Andrew Quick to Michelle Margaret Morgan.

Stephen Andrew Hallam to Alison Elizabeth Parker.

July 11—Allan William Keeling to Julia Day.

July 25—Anthony Richard Clarke to Evelyn Ellen Montgomery Murry.

### **Funerals**

"The days allotted to us have all been recorded in Your Book"

Ps. 139

July 2—Gladys Ellenor Clark, 70 years, Ansley Village.

July 13—William Leslie Clark, 77 years, Birchley Heath.

July 25—Lelitia Mary Mander, 92 years, Atherstone.

### **20 ASIANS CONFIRMED IN WOLVERHAMPTON**

Twenty Asian converts from Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam were confirmed by the Bishop of Wolverhampton at a service in their home church of St. Jude's.

The 20, who had all been baptised as adults over the past two years, are members of the Asian Christian Fellowship which is part of the church.

The fellowship is led by full-time church workers, Sewa and Narinder Mehat, themselves former Sikhs.

The Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Christopher Mayfield, who also lives in St. Jude's parish, spoke in his address of the importance of members of the church being open to one another and helping one another.

### **Climax**

There were 24 others—teenagers and adults—confirmed in the service. It marked the climax of the ministry of the Vicar, the Rev. Alan Thomas, who retires this summer after 20 years in the parish.

The Asian Christian Fellowship at St. Jude's meets each Sunday afternoon and services are conducted in both Punjabi and English.

About 50 attend on a regular basis and about half of these also attend morning worship in the parish church.

Sewa Mehat said his hope was that all the Asian Christians would eventually become full members of the parish church.

"We don't aim to create a separate Asian church," he added. "But changes will inevitably take place in the parish worship services as more Asians get involved."

Sewa and Narinder Mehat are supported by BCMS.