

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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AUGUST 1990

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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.

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Ansley Vicarage,

August 1st, 1990

Our Dear Friends,

During this month of August we shall be holding our annual Flower Festival, the twenty-sixth to be exact. We are all very grateful to Margaret Antill who has so willingly taken up the task of leadership in this event. The task her mother, Mrs. Edith Truelove, so ably undertook for 25 years. In fact Edith chose this year's theme ages ago and began writing the notes for the pamphlet late last year.

The title is 'Worship.' Worship is an activity in which everybody is engaged. All people worship. Most make a god of something. For many it is the god of money, or the god of leisure, or the god of sport, or maybe the house is a god. Whatever it is, it is worshipped by being given priority over everything else; demanding our time and energy, becoming the all absorbing interest.

The Bible encourages us to be engaged in the most health producing activity; that is to say, to Worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Unfortunately worship in church, for many, has come to mean a few hymns and prayers arranged in some pattern. Whereas, said Jesus, true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. How can we worship God like that? The answer to that question is quite simple when we remember that the New Testament uses different words for worship. The one used far more often than the rest could be translated literally, 'I come towards to kiss.' That is to say, in worship, I come as a son or daughter towards my loving Father, to love and adore Him and He embraces me with His love. So we ought not to be afraid sometimes being a bit emotional when we catch a glimpse of God's love and glory as we worship Him.

I can imagine someone reading these lines and saying, "But wait a minute, why do I need to worship God?" A fair question!—but there is, I think, a convincing answer. It was St. Augustine who, many centuries ago, said, "Our hearts are restless till they rest in God." There is about people a great deal of restlessness, dissatisfaction and instability. Many describe themselves as being lost, confused, and frustrated. Looking for something more, something bigger, something better, some unmoveable rock in which to anchor life and feel secure. That is why all need to Worship God.

So we are cruel to ourselves if we disregard God and sentence ourselves to stumble and blunder through life blindfold as it were without a sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds us.

Come to the Flower Festival perhaps its message will be a challenge to you. Offer your help and bring a friend.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR AUGUST

Thursday, August 2nd

7.30 p.m. Church Council Meeting, Ansley Village Church Hall.

Friday, August 3rd

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church till 12 midnight.

Sunday, August 5th — 8th after Trinity

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer.

6.30 p.m. Formal Evening Prayer 1662.

Friday, August 10th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, August 12th — 9th after Trinity

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, "What Christ thinks of the Church."

Friday, August 17th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, August 19th — 10th after Trinity

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Thursday, August 23rd

7.00 p.m. Erecting the Marquee.

Friday, August 24th — Flower Festival. The Theme is "Worship."

6.00 p.m. Church open for viewing.

8.00 p.m. Short service followed by refreshments in the Marquee.

Saturday, August 25th

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

Sunday, August 26th

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Special Festival Evening Service.

Preacher: The Rev. Paul Harris, Vicar of Atherstone.
(Refreshments served in the marquee at the close of both morning and evening services).

Monday, August 27th

Church open for viewing from 10.00 a.m. and the marquee for refreshments and the sale of goods.

Gifts of vegetables will be appreciated.

Tuesday, August 28th

9.30 a.m. Taking down the Marquee.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funeral. "The dead shall hear the voice of the Son of Man."

July 4—Norman Shadrack Varden, aged 72 years of Ansley Common.

The Great Cake Bake was an encouraging success. The weather was agreeable, Teas were served in the garden to growing numbers of customers. Margaret Oliver was able to send the Children's Society £60 and expresses her thanks to all who helped bake and serve, sell and buy.

The fete resulted in £184.67 being added to the funds. Many thanks to all who helped to run the event. Gardens and homes in the parish benefited from the colourful and well presented plant stall. The refreshments too together with the other stalls and games helped to make a pleasant afternoon.

The Gift Day brought in a good number of boxes and the figure so far is £315.57. Thank you! This amount will go towards meeting the expenses of the repairs to the building which you will notice has been going on for some weeks. We shall soon be back to normal and the six Clerestory windows re-leaded and handmade glass replaced will bring back into the building the much needed natural light. This work may well be in excess of £5000 due to broken mullions found during the course of repairs.

What a good piece of work the Church Council did earlier this year when approval was given to increase the insurance on the Church building as recommended by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company by doubling the annual payments to £1,450. We are well covered to meet all the expenses of the damage done; and the items stolen, during the break-in on the night of July 9th and thanks to our treasurer Marcia the renewal payment had been promptly paid ten days previously.

Practical help will be appreciated during the **Flower Festival** doing such jobs as erecting the marquee; stewarding in Church; assistance on the refreshments and vegetable stalls; and taking down the marquee at the end; cleaning the Church before, and after the Festival. Our Wardens will be pleased to show you where assistance is most needed. Thank you.

The Strawberry Teas at St. John's was a new venture and very worthwhile. Certainly enjoyable and an occasion to be looked forward to in the future. The profits were sent to T.E.A.R. towards sponsoring a Child.

The Late Night Prayer Time will be repeated again this month on Friday, August 3rd. This is with the Church Army team visit particularly in mind. Please give your name to David Cove if you would like to come for a short or lengthier time. At least one person will be in prayer during the prayer time. Next month this late night prayer will be combined with Corley, Arley and Fillongley parishes who, together with us, are also having members of the C.A. team.

In the Church Pews is the special prayer for the 15th-30th September. We use this in Worship in Church each Sunday and you are also invited to take a copy home to use in your daily prayers.

The programme giving details of the events during the mission will be available towards the end of this month. Included in the first week will be nightly meetings at St. John's for the Children; a Barbecue; an entertainment evening with meal and speaker at Ansley Village Social Club; visits to Schools; and a Youth event at Arley Sports Centre. The second week there will be nightly Children's meetings in Ansley Village; a healing service in Church; Coffee evenings in homes. On each of the Saturdays there will be a Children's event at Birchley Farm, home of Dr. John and Sue Harris for the Birchley Heath Children.

If you would welcome a meeting in your home, morning, afternoon or evening, do please ask David Morley and should you like to invite a member of the team to a meal in your home we shall be glad to add your name to the growing list.

The title of the mission is The Missing Peace. A woman writes about her experience of Living with fear.

Bishop's wife Grace Sheppard (her husband, David Sheppard, is Bishop of Liverpool) lived with fear for years.

Triggered by illness on her honeymoon, she became agoraphobic, unable to step alone outside her front door.

Lifts, tunnels, sitting under a hairdryer, brought her out in perspiration and caused her heart to beat wildly.

As a previously self-sufficient person she had to learn to depend on others for understanding and help.

Her unexplained fears brought further fear—fear of failure as a wife and as a person, fear of losing control.

But with the help of professionals, the support of family and friends and, above all, God's help, she has managed to master her fears.

Acknowledging fear is the first step to managing it.

"We need to build a relationship with our feeling of fear just as if we were in charge of an army of soldiers, or a large class of lively children," she says.

It is important to know that God accepts us as we are, including our fears. Although Jesus was divine, He was also human and he knew fear.

Recognise that even "silly" fears are real ones, Grace advises. A sense of humour is also a useful tool for getting things into proportion.