



# Ansley Church News

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## WORSHIP

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

3rd Sunday

11.00 a.m. Family Worship.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Holy Communion also on 1st Sunday at 8.00 a.m.

St. John's Hall—Family Worship at 10.00 a.m., on Sept. 30th.

## COME TOGETHER

Details of this year's confirmation course inside, and the CHRISTIANS TOGETHER meeting at Ansley United Reformed Church, Birmingham Road on Wednesday, September 5th at 7.30 p.m.

ALL WELCOME TO THESE MEETINGS

Dear Friends,

'Anyone who starts to plough and then keeps looking back is of no use to the Kingdom of God' — Luke 9:62.

Jesus had a lot of people come to him who were 'would-be' disciples. They wanted to put other things in, make other matters more important than following him. One of them made a rash promise—'I will follow you wherever you go'—I wonder how many have done this, in confirmation or in baptism they have dedicated themselves to the Christian faith and then their lives have shown little proof of their words. Another one said, 'Sir, first let me go back and bury my father.' Jesus gave a remarkably serious and stern reply to this, that it is better to let the dead bury their own dead. Discipleship is to do with life, not regrets about the past. Of course it is reasonable and right to look after relatives who cannot look after themselves, but not to use this as an excuse to forget about God's love and concern for ourselves and our problems—if we do that we only find life all the harder. The third person who came to Jesus wanted to say goodbye to his family. Again a perfectly reasonable request—but was that person's family more important to him than his faith? Of course our family and our friends are important parts of our lives, but is our life taken up with them to the exclusion of our faith in God? Do we ignore or neglect our spiritual life, our belief in Jesus, because we make an idol of our family?

The first person had **enthusiasm**, the second person had **concern**, the third person had **love**. But their enthusiasm, concern and love were all for visible things of this world.

Would the enthusiasm still be there when Jesus had left?

Would the concern for a relative leave enough time for God?

Would the love for the family push out love for God?

When we think about God's light at our Flower Festival this year, let us remember that this is the light which converts us to belief in Jesus Christ. Sometimes we are a bit cynical and speak of a newly-converted person as one who has 'seen the light'—but we speak more truly than we realise, for Jesus 'was the real light—the light that comes into the world and shines on all mankind' (John 1:9). If we have enthusiasm, love and concern, let's make sure that we use these God-given parts of our character to make Jesus Christ as the one and only foundation to our lives and the one and only reason for our worship.

Let's change our 'would be' following of Jesus into 'willing' following.

TIM GOULDSTONE

#### **CHRISTIANS TOGETHER**

Although the event was organised too late for inclusion in the June magazine, the 'Christians Together' evening at the United Reformed Church in Birmingham Road was a great success. It was the first time that I had been inside this building and I was impressed with its cosiness and by the way in which it has been looked after. It was also very encouraging to see it nearly full of people from 'around and about' who had come to share together in worship and praise and fellowship. I did note that

there were very few from Ansley, which was a great pity as it can hardly be said that this church is inconveniently placed for the majority of people at the village end of the parish !

It is always good for Christians of different denominations to meet together to share their common witness to Our Lord. There will be another 'Christians Together' on **Wednesday, September 5th at 7.30 p.m.** We are grateful to The Revd. Kathleen Payne and all those who have worked to make this a possibility.

ALL are welcome to this event.

#### **COFFEE EVENING**

Another successful event was the Coffee Evening at Mr. Arnold's house at Cloverfield on August 8th. Again we were blessed with fine weather and a good attendance including some friends from Stockingford Church. Much activity produced a sum of £200 for church funds which was a great effort for a short event such as this. Thank you to all who contributed time, talents and money to this pleasant event.

#### **CHURCHYARD**

Much tidying has gone on over the past months, and special thanks to Messrs. Richardson, Hodgkins, Arnold, Truelove, Whitworth and all others who have been helping recently. I wonder if you ever stop to read some of the inscriptions on the older stones ? Some of them express belief in quaint and sometimes very arresting ways. There is one of 1785 which states, 'Boast not reader of thy might; was well at noon and dead at night.' Today we might consider this in bad taste, but this kind of reality seems to have been much more easily accepted in 1785 than it is today. The artwork of the older stones also repays study. Some of them state Christian truth and hope rather more positively than the example I have quoted here !

#### **PEOPLE**

This time of year is always popular with weddings. We congratulate Andrej Nisevic and Pamela Morewood on their wedding—they will be living in Ansley Common. Also Julie Loughan and Simon Beacham on the same day—Julie is doing a degree in London as part of her nursing career. Lesley Short-hose of Birchley Heath and James Hall are hoping to live in the parish after their marriage on August 25th—others marrying during September are David Maddocks and Jayne Mellor on the 8th; Carol Jones of Birmingham Road to Glen Rowley on the 22nd; Jane Whitcroft to Assumeao Vito Marchon on the same day. Jane is a Nursing Officer at the Walsgrave Hospital—her family lived in this parish a number of years ago. Finally Deborah Gittins to Peter Warlord on September 15th, by Archbishop's Licence, which is an impressive way to do it !

Our sympathy and prayers are with the Truelove family on the sudden death of Henry Truelove's brother, John, in August. Mrs. Harris of Ansley Common has also been re-admitted to hospital, as has Mrs. Hindle of Birmingham Road. Mrs. Fessi

has also been far from well. To these people and all our friends in need and in pain we offer our prayers and concern.

The Church Hall in Birmingham Road has sustained vandal damage in recent months. I suspect boredom is part of the problem, but if anyone sees anyone throwing stones at this or any other church property will they please report the matter to the vicar or to any church member. Incidentally we are looking into the possibility of redecorating this hall through the Manpower Services Commission scheme.

#### **'COME TOGETHER'**

Here are the details of the Confirmation Preparation for 1984. It seems that our friends at the URC Church had the idea of 'Christians Together' at the same time as we came up with the idea of 'Come Together' for this year's course, so I make no apology for putting the two together.

All are welcome to these meetings which are designed to help us know one other better and encourage us in a deeper knowledge of our Lord and give us confidence in our witness. They are not just for those who feel called to offer themselves for confirmation but for all church members (and others!) who fell in need of a 'refresher course' by which they can strengthen their faith. All meetings at 7.30 p.m.

Sept. 5—'Christians Together'—at Ansley URC Church, Birmingham Road.

Sept. 19—'Beginning and Being Sure'—Fillongley Church Vestry.

Sept. 26—'Growing'—Ansley Village Hall.

Oct. 3—'Being Obedient'—Arley Vestry, St. Wilfrid's Church.

Oct. 10—No Meeting.

Oct. 17—'Being Established'—Arley Vestry, St. Wilfrid's Church.

Oct. 26—'Continuing'—Corley Parish Church, followed by refreshments and Confirmation Rehearsal.

Nov. 1—Confirmation at Corley by The Rt. Revd. John Gibbs, Bishop of Coventry, 7.30 p.m.

Any transport problems, see the Vicar.

#### **SCHOOL NEWS**

Of course, being the holiday period, developments on the proposed closure of Church End School have 'gone quiet.' The next step will be the serving of a Closure Order on the school in September by Warwickshire County Council. This will enable us to take up the matter with the Secretary of State for Education in London and make representations to him on behalf of our school's future. A group of us will probably be making a visit to London some time in the autumn. Term begins again on August 29th and I hear that the number on the roll is likely to be around the 40 mark.

#### **WORSHIP**

The central service of the week has been 'The Parish Communion,' in contrast to the former idea of having a separate service of morning prayer followed by a shortened service of

communion for those who wished to stay behind. The 'Parish Communion' service is an attempt to provide a form of worship which obeys Jesus' command to 'do this in remembrance of me' every week. Parish Communion grew up in an age, not so long ago, when being confirmed was much more the 'done thing' and the number of candidates was much larger than today.

Nowadays confirmation is almost equivalent to conversion! The result is that many people feel themselves excluded from worship because they cannot participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion, or feel mildly uncomfortable about attending worship where the Sacrament is central to the service.

One or two people in Ansley have suggested that Communion on the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month is not meeting the needs of worshippers and perhaps one occasion of non-sacramental worship would be a worthy experiment. The PCC will be giving some thought to this matter over the next few months—meanwhile, here are some questions to consider:

1. Much less than half the population under 40 is confirmed. Some have said that the Church of England is becoming an 'eucharistic sect,' that is, a small group of people who have been confirmed and who by their worship exclude outsiders. Is this true?
2. As the years pass, the Church finds itself in a situation which is more and more 'evangelistic'—that is, the knowledge of the Christian faith in society is growing appreciably smaller. Is a Parish Communion Service the best means of meeting the needs of the outsider? Can you give reasons why? Or why not?
3. The 'Family Worship' on the 3rd Sunday has proved to be popular with all ages. (Don't make the mistake of thinking that 'Family Worship' is just for the kids!) Do we need another more formal service of 'Morning Prayer' as an alternative to Parish Communion?

Since the passing of the Church of England (Worship and Doctrine) Measure in 1974 the forms of service in church are reached by agreement between incumbent and PCC. The notes to this measure state, 'in taking their decision, they need to remember that they have to bear in mind, the interests and the needs of the parish as a whole . . . if there are differences of view, they should seek . . . to find a solution which meets the widest range of needs . . . they should also bear in mind the needs of those who come to church occasionally, e.g. at major festivals.' We all have different ideas of what we like or dislike—we need to remember that others have different paths in spirituality to our own and be open to learn and listen from each other. Of course, it goes without saying that whatever form of worship we like, we will only get out of it what we put into it!

#### MARRIAGE

August 4—Andrej Nisevic and Pamela Morewood.  
Simon Beacham and Julie Loughan.

**Apology**—Deborah Gittins is marrying Peter Plowden-Wardlaw not Warlord.