

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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

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WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER

1st, 3rd, 4th Sundays :

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (Holy Communion on 18th)

2nd Sunday : (11th October)

11.00 a.m. HARVEST FAMILY COMMUNION
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Note that this month the Family Service will be held on the 11th, coinciding with our Harvest Festival celebrations. The 'bus will run from Ansley Common and Birchley Heath for this service.

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m., on the 1st Sunday as usual.

It was good to hear that the Girls Friendly Society has made a good start under Val Whitworth and friends. We hope to mark this in some way at the November Family Service. The Flower Festival was a wonderful way to show in word and display the message of God for the world. Let us pray that the many who saw it in the weekend will have their faith strengthened and realise the truth of the theme that 'Jesus came to save all men.' A lot of hard work and thought goes into this event and much work is done behind the scenes in preparation. Grateful thanks to everyone who gave of time, talents and muscle to make it such a memorable event.

Speaking of Jesus' message for the world should make us think about the purpose of the church. There was a report published recently by a group calling itself 'Save our Heritage' which sharply criticised the Church of England for allowing some of its buildings to be demolished or converted to other uses. Much of the report thinks that we are in the preservation business to the exclusion of other forms of witness. But the church is made up of people who have found out that God is real to them—not shut up in special places, but with them in their daily lives, at the kitchen sink, in work and rest and play. Sometimes we should reflect that Jesus is portrayed in the Gospels as being in conflict with 'religion' and with those who thought they knew it all. Those who sought refuge in religion that was dull and sterile had their lives disturbed and challenged by Jesus' words. The church's purpose is to carry on the work of Jesus—and this is not always comforting or easy; sometimes listening to God's message can disturb and humble us. And there is one question we should always ask—What should we be doing **now** to help people understand the Christian message?

October brings us to the season of Harvest Festival. My knowledge of farming is pretty small but I hope that most of it has been gathered in by the middle of October! This thanksgiving for what God has given us can easily become as meaningless as Christmas unless its truth lives with us every day of the year. Harvest thanksgiving reminds us how God speaks to us through

the created world and its goodness, just as Christmas reminds us how God speaks to us through a man, Jesus. There should be a thanksgiving every time we buy the weekly shopping in a supermarket or store, not just once a year at one service. Harvest thanksgiving should also remind us that there are practical things we can do to help those who do not enjoy freedom from hunger and want. Like most people in this country I have never known real hunger. It must be a terrible experience. Some people take more than they need while other parts of the world starve in poverty. What Christian action should we take ?

It is proposed that we hold a combined playgroup and mums and toddlers' group in Ansley Village Church Hall. There are training sessions taking place now in the Hall on Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m., for an hour or so. If you want to know more about this project please contact Mrs. Wilson at 21 Birmingham Road (Chapel End 394433). Ansley Common also has its group that meets in St. John's Hall on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.15 a.m. to noon — contact Mrs. Denise Charnell at 41 Bretts Hall (Chapel End 392061).

QUESTION TIME — No. 3

What is Baptism ?

This question seems to have become something of a live issue in the Nuneaton area recently. It is important to realise that in baptism parents are making very definite promises on behalf of their children. For many years the Church of England has practised completely indiscriminate baptism. Often people just turned up on a Sunday afternoon—there was no preparation and the solemn promises were soon forgotten !

Children are baptised 'on the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the Church.' This means some active membership on the part of families that wish their children to be baptised. Of course there are problems posed by small children. But we do have family services ! Everyone is welcome.

A baptised family is a family whose members want to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ. In the baptism service, parents declare their belief and trust in God and their willingness to be counted as Christians in a society that is sometimes apathetic or hostile to Christian standards and the Christian faith.

Remember : baptism means you want to understand and live out the Christian faith for yourselves.

baptism means you want your children to be taught the Christian faith.

baptism means you take God seriously.

baptism means you take church membership seriously.

For this reason we ask parents to come to one preparation meeting before baptisms are arranged.

Who can be baptised ?

The children of anyone residing in the parish or the children of those who are active members of Ansley Parish Church, provided that they are willing to come to the preparation meeting.

When does baptism take place ?

For years children were baptised on Sunday afternoons, often with only the immediate family present in church. This is not really a satisfactory arrangement as baptism isn't just a pleasant family get-together but involves the whole worshipping congregation. In fact the Church of England now teaches that 'Baptism is normally administered by the parish priest in the course of public worship on Sunday.' For this reason we shall have the occasional baptism during one of our family services if parents so wish. Baptisms can still take place on Sunday afternoons (third Sunday in the month).

What about some adult candidates for baptism as well ?

NOTES, NEWS AND DATES

3—**Barn Dance** at Sutton's Farm, 8.00 p.m. Tickets £2.00 including refreshments. Kurley Kale Ceildh Band. Brenda Garnham, caller. Tickets from Mrs. Cove, Mrs. Priest, Mrs. Sutton and Frank Arnold.

5—**P.C.C.** at 8.00 p.m., in Village Church Hall.

11—**Harvest Family Communion** at 11.00 a.m. Remember that the church needs decorating on Saturday 10th.

12—**Harvest Sale** at 7.30 p.m., in Village Church Hall.

16—**Harvest Supper** at 7.30 p.m., in Village Church Hall. Tickets £1.25.

The final sum raised by the Flower Festival was £550. It is proposed that we give the sum of £200 to help for the handicapped locally. Many thanks to all the organisers of this great effort.

This year's Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, 21st November.

The bus will run on the morning of October 11th for the Harvest Family Communion.

MARRIAGE

September 14—Peter Apinis and Gaynor Powell.

FUNERAL

September 23—John Johnson, late of Birmingham Road, Ansley.