

# ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 688

OCTOBER 1982

Price 10p

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

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Dear Friends,

How long has there been a harvest thanksgiving service? You might think that there's always been one—and you would be wrong!

Harvest as a time of Christian celebration has only been an established tradition since the middle of the last century. In 1843 The Revd. R. S. Hawker of Morwenstowe in Cornwall revived the Lammas ('loaf mass') custom on the first Sunday in October and used bread made from the first ripe corn for the bread of the sacrament. Part of his purpose was to make Harvest celebrations more 'Christian'—he wanted to make a secular time of celebration into a Christian festival (the early Christians did the same with Christmas in the fourth century). The earliest Harvest hymn 'Come ye thankful people, come' in our hymn book dates from 1844; even 'We plough the fields and scatter' only came along in translation in 1861.

## THANKS TO GOD

Harvest is to be thanksgiving to God and a thanksgiving for God. It is a thanksgiving to God because we are put here as stewards of his creation. We now know how quickly we are using up the earth's resources. We westerners use up vast amounts of food, metal ores, oil and coal in our demand for consumer goods, transport and 'goodies' to maintain our standard of living. What will our descendants in 150 years' time be doing at their Harvest thanksgivings? Will our resources have lasted until then? Creation is given to us as a gift—and we take care and treasure our gifts if they mean anything to us. If we do not receive the created world with thanksgiving and gratitude, if we ungratefully go on asking for more, then western civilisation is not going to last the next 150 years.

## THANKS FOR GOD

Hawker of Morwenstowe got it right 150 years ago. The bread and wine he used at his communion service was used to give thanks for God—he used the things of **creation** (bread, corn) to express thanks for **salvation** (in the Communion service). This service means that we 'give thanks for God' as we commit ourselves in faith to him through Jesus Christ, 'who on the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave thanks . . .'

So we came as thankful people, not just for the goodness of God in creation but for the goodness of God shown to us in Jesus Christ.

TIM GOULDSTONE

### EYESORE, HISTORY AND BOTTLES !

What is going to be done with Ansley Hall ? In 1982 it looks like a monument to fire, destruction, demolition and vandalism. Surely someone should either tear it down and use the site sensibly or tidy the place up. It witnesses to the small degree of interest in local history in this area. Another example of this—try buying a book by George Eliot in Nuneaton . . . ('Who ? I thought George Eliot was a hospital . . .').

Talking of history, I hope to republish a short history of Ansley church sometime—the present one is out of print. Visitors often ask me for one and our interest in matters should take in the past and the present—and the future !

Now the bottles. Since setting out the back garden in the new Vicarage site I have found over 100 bottles, some of historical interest. I understand that this site was once used as a village tip which explains such a large concentration. Some folk might remember the products contained in these objects—Sloan's Liniment, Phosferine, Gibson's (Gibson's what ?), California Fig Syrup Co., Eiffel Tower Lemonade (made by Foster Clark of Maidstone), Manor Bijou Pickles, Sloan's Liniment (U.S.A.), Stainoleum (James Rudman, Bristol), Owbridges Lung Tonic, Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, Scott's Emulsion, Elliman's Embrocation, Bisurated Magnesia (Bismag Ltd., London) plus many anonymous smaller containers.

### NOTES AND NEWS

Traditionally August is a quiet month for church activities but not so in Ansley—a 'Fun Day' and a Flower Festival in the space of eight days ! The Flower Festival had quite good weather and £408 was raised for church funds for the redecoration of the inside of the building. Thanks to all who helped—in this as in all that is done in community life its the people who help out in quiet ways that really enable these events to take place.

The Bishop of Warwick commented on the use made of the Christian themes for the flower arrangements and several other people said how appropriate this was. Otherwise it becomes a flower show in a church, which is not quite the same thing as an event which proclaims the Christian faith through the beauty of creation.

The **Confirmation Classes** will begin with a 'General Meeting' at the Vicarage on Friday, October 1st at 7.30 p.m. After that we shall be meeting on Thursdays, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th October, 4th and 11th November at 7.30 p.m., for about an hour at the Vicarage. Six adults have expressed an interest in Confirmation so far which is on November 17th at Arley. Parents of children who are brought to baptism should ideally be full communicant members of the church as well. If you have had your child baptised, or are thinking about it, why not come along on



**October 1st at 7.30 p.m., to the Vicarage.** You don't have to commit yourself to this Autumn's classes, there will be another opportunity next year.

**Eleven Plus** will begin again on Monday, October 4th, then on October 25th and fortnightly from then on. We hope to join in activities on occasions with the young people from some of the other churches in the deanery—if you are between 11 and 15 and interested, come along. At first we will be finishing off the confirmation preparation we began in the summer.

The date of the **Coffee Evening** has had to be changed from September 28th to **October 5th**. Admission 25p. Bring and Buy Stall, Cake Competition, etc.

**REMEMBER ! Harvest Barn Dance** with Buffet and Bar on Friday, October 15th at 8.00 p.m., in the Village Church Hall. Ends 11.30 p.m. Tickets are £1.50 which includes the cost of the buffet meal. They are available from the social committee, Mr Arnold, Mrs. Priest, Mrs. Cove, Mrs. Berridge. Limited to 80, first come first served ! Also the Harvest Sale on Monday 11th at 7.30 p.m.

Our preacher on October 24th will be the **Revd. Duncan McMann** of the Bible Churchmans' Missionary Society. BCMS has been working abroad for over sixty years bringing the message of the Gospel to many lands. Not just preaching, but what are called 'service ministries' — agriculture, medicine, teaching, development. A comment from the society's AGM which should make us think : 'I hope that we shall increasingly see mission as no longer something from 'us' to 'them' or even from 'them' to 'us' : but as part of the whole exchange of persons and ideas back and forth in the various parts of the universal body of Christ . . . '

How far does our vision extend ? Does our thanksgiving at this 'Harvest Time' mean that we share God's gifts with others as much as we should ?

The **Autumn Sale at St. John's** raised £178. Thanks to everyone for their support.

#### DIARY FOR OCTOBER 1982

**3—Trinity 17 — 'The Creation'**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said).

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

Epistle : Colossians 1 : 15-20.

Gospel : John 1 : 1-14.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

OT — Genesis 1.

NT — Romans 8 : 18-25.

**5— 6.45 p.m. School Governors' Meeting.**

7.30 p.m. Coffee Evening in Village Church Hall with Bring and Buy Sale (note change of date).

**10—Trinity 18 — 'The World' (Harvest Thanksgiving)**

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.  
Epistle : 2 Thessalonians 3 : 6-15.  
Gospel : John 4 : 31-38.  
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.  
Preacher : Revd. Guy Cornwall-Jones of  
Weddington.  
OT — Psalm 19.  
NT — Romans 8 : 18-30.

11— 7.30 p.m. Harvest Sale — Village Church Hall.

15— 8.00 p.m. Harvest Barn Dance with Buffet. Village Church Hall.

**17—Trinity 19 — 'The Church'**

11.00 a.m. Family Service.  
Luke 22 : 14-34.  
6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.  
Epistle : 1 Timothy 3.  
Gospel : Luke 9 : 44-62.

18— 8.00 p.m. Social Committee — Vicarage.

20— 7.00 p.m. St. John's Mothers' Union.  
Speaker : Mr. J. Fisher of Grendon.

**24—Trinity 20 — 'The Task'**

10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's.  
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.  
Preacher : The Revd. Duncan McMan. .  
Epistle : Acts 13 : 44-52.  
Gospel : Luke 10 : 1-20.  
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.  
Preacher : The Revd. Duncan McMan. .  
OT — Isaiah 43 : 1-13.  
NT — Romans 15 : 22-33.

26— 8.00 p.m. PCC, Village Church Hall.

**31—Trinity 21 — 'The Tools'**

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.  
Epistle : Galations 5 : 16-6 : 10.  
Gospel : John 14 : 25-31.  
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.  
**SONGS OF PRAISE at Ansley.**  
OT — Ezekiel 37 : 1-14.  
NT — 1 Corinthians 12 : 1-11.

**WEDDINGS**

Aug. 7—Ian Ernest Woods and Allyson Hilary Moule.

Sept. 4—Paul Hugh Belcher and Kim Elizabeth Flowers.

**BAPTISM**

We welcome into the family of the Church :

Sept. 19—Richard David Barrs, Brook House Farm.

Amy Matilda Garland, Paddock Lodge, Izens Croft.  
Samantha Hobbs, 16 St. Lawrence Road, Ansley.

Sept. 26—(St. John's). Steven Daniel Morris, 82 Ansley Common.