

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 677

NOVEMBER 1981

Price 10p

Vicar : THE REVD. TIMOTHY M. GOULDSTONE

The Vicarage, Birmingham Road, Ansley

Tel.: Chapel End 392240

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

WORSHIP

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays in each month :

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

3rd Sunday :

11.00 a.m. Family Service

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion

1st Sunday :

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday School each Sunday at 11.00 a.m., in the Village Church Hall except on the third Sunday when it will attend the service in Church.

HOME AND ABROAD

There has been quite a bit of publicity lately about the inequalities between the nations of the world. At the moment an international conference is taking place in Mexico to discuss the problems of starvation, poverty and hopelessness that affect one-third of the human population. This is the so-called 'north-south' divide. We have become used to 'East versus West' as the U.S.A. and Soviet Union wrestle for domination, but perhaps the north-south divide will become even more important in the years ahead. The 'north' is the group of rich nations that dominate world economics. Together they make up **one-third** of the world's population. They consume 80% of the wealth produced in the world each year. They have the technology and cash to maintain affluent societies which are preserved in part

by the continued poverty of the other two thirds. We are one of these countries.

Two-thirds of the world's population live in the 'south' or developing countries and share only **one-fifth** of the wealth produced in the world every year. In many of these countries one child in four dies before it is five years old. Three hundred million (300,000,000) of them are unemployed.

Modern communications have brought rich and poor face to face. In our own country we are face to face with people of other cultures and races. The opening of a mosque in Nuneaton recently reminds us of our wider world. Those from overseas now live just 'over the way.' What is the Christian response to this world-picture, so vastly different from that of even thirty years ago?

Sharing and Justice abroad

Parishes and congregations throughout Britain already support the development work of the Missionary Societies, who fund not only Christian workers and ministers but also teachers, doctors, nurses and agricultural workers. Nearly one million people are involved in the work of the voluntary aid organisations. However voluntary projects alone cannot tackle the staggering inequalities of the world. The gap is widening between the rich and poor of the world and this fact is likely to dominate the direction of international relationships well into the 21st century.

Security and Salvation at home

The West Midlands area is still in something of a state of shock as more and more people are made redundant from the motor industry and its allied engineering trades. Coventry has never known forty thousand out of work — the area was traditionally the one to come to for big wages and a quick return in the 1960's and early 1970's. Now the bubble has burst. Demands for more and more cash in an economy that is stagnant (or worse) cannot be met; or if they are met, it is at somebody else's expense. There is a very big question-mark set against the future of many Midlands families—what about security? Will there **ever** be full employment again? Boredom? Family stress? School leavers and their future?

There is no simple 'Christian answer' to these questions. One important fact is this: for years we have seen a man's worth or a woman's worth in terms of the job they do. For some reason a person's job seems to be thought to determine their character. Those at the bottom of the pile (unemployed) were thought to be layabouts. If women weren't working they thought they were missing out on life — "I'm **only** a housewife!" For a Christian a person's importance before God is determined not

by what he does but by what he is—and this should cut across all barriers of race, colour, class and job—or lack of a job. Unemployment is here to stay for a long time yet, whatever the simplistic promises of politicians of all colours. Each one of us stands before God as a person made in his image. True, that image is distorted and bent by our own sin and self-will and we need God's forgiveness and a sense of his love. God is close to human need and responsive to us as he is responsive to all those who turn back to him. God receives all prodigals who return to him with open arms—even if like the prodigal son in Luke's Gospel they have been unemployed !

Salvation is therefore about our own standing before God. In a time of rapid change and future uncertainty a lot of the props of life are knocked away. These tests can turn us to bitterness and confusion or they can turn us towards our creator and saviour and remind us of our ultimate dependence upon him. Which is it to be ?

NOTES, NEWS AND DATES

The Barn Dance on October 3rd was a great success. Many thanks to all who organised this event and to Mr. and Mrs. Sutton for the use of their barn. The Harvest Festival celebrations took place in various places this year—this vicar seems to have moved from Chapel End Darby and Joan Club to Herbert Fowler School via the Church ! The latter had its usual attractive decorations, a visual aid to remind us of God's goodness through his creation—easily forgotten if we think we are the masters of everything. The attendance at the Family Communion of Harvest Festival Sunday and at the evening service was good to see—how much better the worship goes with a good number ! We could always do with more regulars each Sunday. Nearly 100 people came to the Harvest Supper. Please remember all the good work that goes on behind the scenes for these events. It is an encouraging feature of our parish life. The Harvest Sale raised the sum of £90 for church funds.

- 1—6.30 p.m. **Evening Prayer** — Joint service with Corley, Fillongley and Arley congregations at Ansley. Preacher : The Bishop of Warwick.
- 3—3.00 p.m. **Mothers' Union** — Village Church Hall.
- 7—6.30 p.m. **Music for Everyone** — Concert at Arley. Come and hear all sorts of music in St. Michael's, Gun Hill, Arley. Admission by programme, available from the vicar, adults £1.20, children 60p.
- 11—7.00 p.m. **St. John's M.U.** — Holy Communion Service, taken by the vicar. Visitors very welcome. Held in St. John's Hall.

by what he does but by what he is—and this should cut across all barriers of race, colour, class and job—or lack of a job. Unemployment is here to stay for a long time yet, whatever the simplistic promises of politicians of all colours. Each one of us stands before God as a person made in his image. True, that image is distorted and bent by our own sin and self-will and we need God's forgiveness and a sense of his love. God is close to human need and responsive to us as he is responsive to all those who turn back to him. God receives all prodigals who return to him with open arms—even if like the prodigal son in Luke's Gospel they have been unemployed !

Salvation is therefore about our own standing before God. In a time of rapid change and future uncertainty a lot of the props of life are knocked away. These tests can turn us to bitterness and confusion or they can turn us towards our creator and saviour and remind us of our ultimate dependence upon him. Which is it to be ?

NOTES, NEWS AND DATES

The Barn Dance on October 3rd was a great success. Many thanks to all who organised this event and to Mr. and Mrs. Sutton for the use of their barn. The Harvest Festival celebrations took place in various places this year—this vicar seems to have moved from Chapel End Darby and Joan Club to Herbert Fowler School via the Church ! The latter had its usual attractive decorations, a visual aid to remind us of God's goodness through his creation—easily forgotten if we think we are the masters of everything. The attendance at the Family Communion of Harvest Festival Sunday and at the evening service was good to see—how much better the worship goes with a good number ! We could always do with more regulars each Sunday. Nearly 100 people came to the Harvest Supper. Please remember all the good work that goes on behind the scenes for these events. It is an encouraging feature of our parish life. The Harvest Sale raised the sum of £90 for church funds.

- 1—6.30 p.m. **Evening Prayer** — Joint service with Corley, Fillongley and Arley congregations at Ansley. Preacher : The Bishop of Warwick.
- 3—3.00 p.m. **Mothers' Union** — Village Church Hall.
- 7—6.30 p.m. **Music for Everyone** — Concert at Arley. Come and hear all sorts of music in St. Michael's, Gun Hill, Arley. Admission by programme, available from the vicar, adults £1.20, children 60p.
- 11—7.00 p.m. **St. John's M.U.** — Holy Communion Service, taken by the vicar. Visitors very welcome. Held in St. John's Hall.

16—8.00 p.m. **P.C.C.** — Village Church Hall.

21—3.00 p.m. **Christmas Bazaar** — Village Church Hall.

22—6.30 p.m. **Joint Service** at Fillongley Church for the parishes of Ansley, Arley, Corley and Fillongley. This service will be recorded for the B.B.C's series 'Sunday Half Hour.' Further details later.

29— **First Sunday in Advent** — Commitment Sunday.

Don't forget — every Monday at 5.45 Girls' Friendly Society in the Village Church Hall.

GARDENING HINTS !

Things to sow :

4 rows of Peas

Perseverance

Promptness

Preparedness

Patience

4 rows of lettuce

Let us be true to ourselves

Let us be faithful to God

Let us be loyal and unselfish

Let us love one another as God has first loved us

4 rows of turnips

Turn up for services and meetings

Turn up on time (please, please, PLEASE)

Turn up with new ideas

Turn up with determination to make events and people count for something good and worthwhile.

During a hot spell, be thoughtful of a few squashes :

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash criticism

BAPTISM

We welcome into the fellowship of the Lord's people

October 18—Julie Elizabeth Lakin, 89 Birmingham Road.

Newdegate Press (Nuneaton) Ltd., Stratford Street, Nuneaton