

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 689

NOVEMBER 1982

Price 10p

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

Dear Friends,

HOPE—TRUE OR FALSE ?

A lot of folk look to the church for refuge and comfort. It's right that they do, but there are dangers.

The Church brings a message of hope and comfort in the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It does not provide a bolt-hole from the present.

Sometimes God wants to make us profoundly uncomfortable with life. A God who interferes with us, who asks awkward questions, who allows himself to get involved, pushing his way into the world, our homes, our work, our lives—we find that hard to take.

God's people years ago wanted a God firmly fixed in the past. They had to learn a lesson :

Do not cling to events of the past
or dwell on what happened long ago.
Watch for the new thing I am going to do.
It is happening already—you can see it now !

What does this text mean for us today ?

First, people are asking some big questions about our way of life. Do you remember Harold Macmillan saying 'You've never had it so good ?' That was way back in 1957. We forgot the war, rationing and austerity and went on the biggest spending spree in history.

Did this make us happier ? More responsible to the poor ? Better neighbours ? Can materialism (the belief that material goods are all that matters) bring about an ideal society ?

Secondly, now the spree has ended, we are seeing a rise in the odd, the irrational. We read our horoscopes, won't walk under ladders, 'touch wood,' trust to 'luck' and 'fate.' Films like 'The Exorcist' make headlines. Hallowe'en has risen in popularity—symbols of darkness, unknown, fear, even if we only take them in fun.

We have to force ourselves to laugh at these dark things. When people stop believing in God they will believe in anything.

The Church is the people of God—we cannot resort to gimmicks, to begging off the community for its existence, to being more worldly than the world.

We now have to ask and answer some very hard and challenging questions which we all find difficult to face. Jesus' work was to ask these sort of questions, stabbing people in their conscience, making people decide for or against God—even his disciples were tempted to push off and leave this difficult and challenging man. Jesus knew that to become obsessed with his own existence would mean failure. Jesus wouldn't trust empty applause in an attempt to 'get popular.'

The Christian Church will never be the central organisation of the land, never again be 'powerful' or 'rich;' and that shouldn't worry us. The surviving congregations of the future will be self-supporting (take serious note), active and lively, but they will be off to one side of the main rush and trend of life. If this surprises you, look at the life of Jesus. He was pushed to one side, edged out of life and on to a Cross—too much of a troublemaker for us! Have you edged God out of your life?

November moves towards Advent, the season of hope when we think of the coming of the Lord Jesus and his humility and glory; we respond as the Advent collect says, 'give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.' Our worship this month centres round this hope.

What kind of people is the church to be?

What kind of message do we preach and live?

What kind of price are we prepared to pay?

What kind of hope do we hold?

TIM GOULDSTONE

NOTES AND NEWS

Confirmation—This will be held on Wednesday, November 17th at St. Michael's, New Arley. We've had two groups running one adult and one 'Eleven Plus'—and had some quite lively times. We have fourteen or so candidates, half of them adults, and already I am getting requests for next year! All newly confirmed (and their parents) have been invited to an informal get together with food at Fillongley vestry on Thursday, November 18th at 7.30 p.m. A regular meeting might arise out of our group to which anyone is welcome.

Incidentally, parents of children who are baptised should be regular communicant members of their local church. It doesn't make much sense making promises on behalf of your children if you have not been prepared to make them yourselves as parents.

Church End School. This school will be holding an 'At Home' on Wednesday, December 1st, 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., and all visitors and friends of the school are welcome to come. That means ANYBODY who has had contacts with the school. There must be plenty of older people in the village and the surrounding area who went to Ansley School. Come along and see what they are doing for the children of today.

Remember that this school needs your continued support. There are no threats of closure at the moment, but we cannot count on the authorities keeping it open 'at all costs.' At present

there are 36 children on the roll. The governors and supporters of the school will always want to keep it 'on the map,' but the sober reality is this; support must be more than verbal and sentimental. The future of the school lies in our hands, not the education authority's.

So on December 1st remember 'Ansley School is our school—come and pay us a visit and bring a friend.'

Harvest Celebrations. We had some good congregations to our Harvest Thanksgiving and a lively address from the Rural Dean. The Family Service the Sunday after was well attended. How many rural churches can say they had 77 people the Sunday after Harvest Festival? Our Barn Dance was an enjoyable occasion and about sixty people came. We might have one or two more next year. Thanks to all who did the food and 'administered' this event.

Thanks. To the pupils, staff and parents of Herbert Fowler School—they donated one-third of their harvest produce to the Church. This was after our auction on the Monday, but it was taken to the Church of England Children's Society home at Olton (Solihull) where it was gratefully received. The CECS has also received £23 from a sponsored knit by Mrs. Marie Cove—she would like to thank everyone who supported her in this. The lengths of knitting will be used to make single blankets.

Harvest auction and barn dance raised £105 for church funds.

Luncheon Club at Ansley Common now has a 'Pop-in' club which was started on October 27th. Thanks to all who give of their time to this and to the club. The luncheon club in the village seems to have settled down to about 11—we could do with a few more!

Hospital and Other Visiting. Please TELL the Vicar if anyone has been admitted to hospital and wants a visit, or if anyone in the parish has fallen ill. He is not psychic!

The Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 27th.

Confirmation Candidates are Mr. Norman Woods, Mr. William Lloyd, Mrs. Mary Lloyd, Mrs. Agnes Connor, Mrs. Ann Cartwright, Mrs. Nora Martin, Jane Kimberley, Ian Kimberley, Martin Kimberley, Keith McDonald, Stephanie Stain, Amanda Whetstone, Elizabeth Mather, Linda Murray.

The Marrow Competition. Helen Mellor presented a large specimen (16 lbs. on the Vicarage scales) and other entries were no longer than this magazine. The world record is about 64 lbs. Well done Helen—let's hope for more competition next year.

This week we have heard of the passing of **Mrs. Ivy Martin** of Birmingham Road. Mrs. Martin greatly missed her husband who died a couple of years ago and she had been in ill health for sometime. Our prayers and sympathy are with the Martin family at this time of their loss.

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

- 4— 7.30 p.m. Confirmation class at the Vicarage.
- 7— **TRINITY 22 — 'A PEOPLE'**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion—Rev. Grahame Humphries.
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
Epistle : Acts 2 : 36-47.
Gospel : Matt. 5 : 13-24.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
OT — Isaiah 43.
NT — Acts 20 : 17-38.
- 8— 7.30 p.m. Eleven Plus at the Vicarage.
- 11— 7.30 p.m. Confirmation Group at the Vicarage.
- 14— **SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT — 'A MESSAGE'**
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
Epistle : Acts 26 : 12-28.
Gospel : John 3 : 1-17.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
OT — Isaiah 55.
NT — Acts 8 : 26-40.
- 17— 7.30 p.m. Confirmation at St. Michael's, New Arley, by the Bishop of Warwick.
- 18— 7.30 p.m. Informal meal for newly Confirmed (and their parents) at Fillongley vestry.
- 21— **SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT — 'A PRICE'**
11.00 a.m. Family Service.
Lesson : 2 Timothy 3 : 10-17.
3.30 p.m. Baptism.
6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.
Epistle : Acts 7 : 44-8 : 1.
Gospel : John 18 : 15-27.
- 22— 7.30 p.m. Eleven Plus at the Vicarage.
- 24— 7.00 p.m. St. John's M.U. Holy Communion.
- 25— 6.30 p.m. Church End School Christmas Party.
- 27— ~~7.30~~ 7.30 p.m. Christmas Bazaar—Village Church Hall.
- 28— **ADVENT SUNDAY — 'A HOPE'**
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
Epistle : 1 Thessalonians 5 : 1-11.
Gospel : Luke 21 : 25-33.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
OT — Isaiah 29 : 15-24.
NT — Acts 3 : 11-26.
- 29— 6.30 p.m. Arbury District Guides Service.
- DECEMBER**
1— 7.00 p.m. ANSLEY SCHOOL 'AT HOME.'

FUNERAL

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.'

Oct. 29—Ivy Martin, 112 Birmingham Road.

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