



Ansley Church News

No. 701

NOVEMBER 1983

Price 10p

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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 10.00 a.m., on Sunday, Oct., 27th.

SONGS OF PRAISE—6.30 p.m., Fillongley, Sunday, October 27th.

Bus—5.50 p.m. Ansley Common; 5.55 p.m. Birchley Heath;
6.05 p.m. Village.

CHILDREN ? SCHOOL ?

Sunday School meets on Sundays at 11.00 a.m., in the Village Church Hall except for the 3rd Sunday when it joins the Family Service.

DON'T FORGET—SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL. Public meeting at Church End School on Thursday, November 24th at 7.30 p.m.

TRANSPORT ?

A bus runs for the evening service. Leaves Ansley Corner at 6.00 p.m., picks up through the village, leaves Ansley Common at 6.10 p.m., and Birchley Heath at 6.15 p.m.

Dear Friends,

CHURCH END SCHOOL

Most of you will have read by now that there is a plan to rationalise educational facilities in North Warwickshire over the next two years.

One of the proposals involves the closure of the village school at Church End; the reason given is that the pupils would be able to transfer to Arley Gun Hill First School or Galley Common First School. At present the village school has 34 pupils, but it seems from enquiries being made that this number is likely to rise over the next year or so.

There has been a school at Church End since 1873; many years ago it catered for all ages up to 14, but with changes in education over the years it became a Junior School (up to 11) and then a First School, which means that children are only taken between the ages of approximately 4½ and 8.

VILLAGE LIFE

Many will have an attachment to the school which is sentimental or nostalgic—but is this enough? What does the school mean to us now as people in 1983? Do we want to see our countryside denuded of its public services, churches, social events, schools, all of which serve to give communities a sense of identity and continuing value? This is the third time we have had to face the possibility of this closure since the 1960's. What are we going to do about it?

ACTION

All parents of children attending the school have been urged to write to the authorities stating their reasons for keeping the school open. This is much better than one great petition, which after all is only one big letter! There will be a public meeting to discuss the future of the school on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24th at 7.30 p.m., AT THE SCHOOL. If you care about the school and want to see it continue make sure YOU are there!

EDUCATION AND VALUES

There is one important point about the proposed rationalisation scheme which has so far escaped much public attention. If the scheme is carried through without amendment, it would involve the closure of Church Schools at Grendon, Corley, Ansley, Nether Whitacre, Shustoke and Newton Regis. There are many who are concerned about the place of Christian values in education. I know some teachers who are not allowed to teach anything 'too Christian' in their schools, or to be too 'definite' about Christian beliefs in assemblies because it is considered dangerous to 'indoctrinate' children. Such attitudes forget that it is impossible to teach anything without some kind of value-judgement. Do we want to see Christian values replaced with

a do-it-yourself morality, where there is no place for the revelation of God or his authority? It is not a matter of the Church's authority, but of the freedom of letting the Christian message speak for itself through a proper understanding of the Bible, the sacraments and the standard of life that is our calling as Christians.

TIM GOULDSTONE

HARVEST EVENTS

The church was again well decorated for this festival and there were good congregations; but it is said that in years past even the 'horseboxes' in the chancel were full for this and other events. Can we see this again, please! The children of the GFS and the Sunday School made some visual representations of Psalm 95; sea and fish for 'The sea is his and he made it: his hands moulded dry land'; some sheep, 'For he is the Lord our God: we are his people and the sheep of his pasture'; a judge for 'If only you would hear his voice today: for he comes to judge the earth'; a castle for 'O come let us sing out to the Lord, let us shout in triumph to the rock of our salvation.'

I wonder how much we could gain from a meditation of psalm 95—no narrow religious sentiments here but a worldwide vision of the glory, power and authority of the Lord God.

The Harvest Barn Dance was again an excellent social occasion and the buffet system of having a meal proved to be a winner. This event and the harvest sale raised £123 for church funds. Many thanks to all who helped, organised or just came.

Despite weather which included 'rain coming down like stair-
rods,' the Sunday School Bring-and-Buy on October 15th was very well attended. Over £60 was made for the Sunday School funds even if we all got rather wet in the process. Remember the work of the Sunday School, and Mrs. Cove and Mrs. Jones and Stephanie Stain who teach in it.

Unfortunately the GFS has had to close down until next Spring (possibly?) owing to staffing problems. But this is an opportunity to thank Mrs. Whitworth and all who have given their time to this organisation for youngsters over the past couple of years.

LUNCHEON CLUB IN VILLAGE

Unfortunately the Social Services have decided to close the club that meets on Mondays and Wednesdays in the Village Church Hall. They were prepared to carry on, despite the fact that no-one could be found to take on the post of co-ordinator

to replace Mrs. Collins, but the numbers had fallen to a low level (about 10) and it has therefore been closed down as uneconomic. Provision has been made for those who attended to have lunch at Ansley Common or Arley. It is a pity that this had to close, but like so many things in rural life (schools, transport, etcetera) such organisations are becoming the victims of the great god economics.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all who have made this a bright social hour for some of the older members of the village over the past six years. Us younger ones can take our mobility and freedom so much for granted that we tend to forget that some of those who have been attending find that getting about isn't so easy.

LADIES' MEETING — CHURCH HALL

Ansley Ladies meet every other Wednesday at 8.00 p.m., in the Village Church Hall and enjoy a variety of speakers throughout the year. Here is the agenda until Christmas.

Nov. 2—Mrs. Barnes-Hughes—'Making the Most of Yourself.'

Nov. 16—Nuneaton Training Workshops—Talk, slides and sale of items.

Nov. 30—Making a Christmas Decoration.

Dec. 14—Christmas Party.

Why not come along and have a chat over tea and biscuits? For further details contact Margaret Oliver, 33 Nuthurst Crescent.

The Harvest Festival produce from Herbert Fowler School was kindly donated to the four parishes in the group, so I took our share of the produce to the Church of England Children's Society home at Olton, Solihull. There are fourteen children in this home, all of them handicapped. Their leaflet says, 'We need more staff to care for the children: we need more equipment to make life easier for the children: we need £36,000 immediately for the lift and shaft . . . ' Perhaps we could forge a more tangible link between these needy children and our church?

The next PCC meeting will be at 7.30 p.m., on Tuesday, November 8th in the Village Church Hall.

St. John's Mothers' Union will be holding their service of Holy Communion at 7.00 p.m., on Wednesday, November 16th in St. John's Hall. The Village branch of the M.U. meets in the Village Church Hall at 3.00 p.m., on Tuesday, November 1st when the speaker will be Mr. Vickers of 'Link-Up.'

The passing of Mr. 'Joe' Martin removed one of the community figures from Ansley. He had been seriously ill for a number of years, but until last year managed to get to his allotment and back. He took an interest in everyone, and was formerly secretary of Ansley Club for twenty-five years. He will be missed

by all, especially his wife Emily and his caring family. Mr. Sid Forryan of Bretts Hall passed away at home, also after a long illness. Our prayers are with his wife Muriel and Elaine, Lila, Pete and Sharon. Mr. Forryan had worked for some years at Ansley Workshops.

The Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Saturday, November 26th at 3.00 p.m.**, in the Village Church Hall. Mrs. Truelove has a 'Fishy Competition,' compiled by Miss May Stain. Copies are available price 20p from Mrs. Truelove and the answers will be given at the Christmas Bazaar.

There will another '**Desert Island Discs**' session in the Village Church Hall on **Friday, November 18th**. Mrs. Parsley, who must be well known to anyone in the village with large or small children, has kindly agreed to be one of the castaways. Mrs. Parsley is retiring this Christmas, so I think this would be appropriate to thank her for all the help and encouragement she has given to mums and babies in this area for many years.

As well as Mrs. Parsley there will be another unfortunate castaway who as yet has not been pounced upon. Admission 30p and 10p for coffee and biscuits in the interval—all welcome.

There will be a '**Songs of Praise**' combining the four parishes of the Ley Group at **Fillongley Parish Church on Sunday, November 27th at 6.30 p.m.** Exhall Silver Band will be providing some of the music. The bus will run :

Ansley Common	5.50 p.m.
Birchley Heath	5.55 p.m.
Village	6.05 p.m.

There will be **NO SERVICE** at St. Laurence on this date.

The Confirmation this year is at Fillongley on Wednesday, November 9th at 7.30 p.m. All welcome to this service; it is an opportunity for us to renew our vows as well as for newcomers.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Oct. 16—Michelle Mary Aucott, 151 Ansley Common.
Andrew Thomas Greenway, 4 Grange Close, Chapel End.

Marriage

Oct. 24—Andrew John Turner and Andrea Susan Powell.

Funerals

Oct. 20—Joseph Walter Martin, 120 Birmingham Road, aged 68.
Oct. 24—Sidney George Forryan, 59 Bretts Hall, aged 53 (at Hartshill).