



Ansley Church News

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Price 10p

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The Vicarage,
Birmingham Road,
Ansley.

Chapel End 392240

WORSHIP

Parish Communion 11.00 a.m. 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Family Worship 11.00 a.m. 3rd Sunday.

Evening Prayer 6.30 p.m. 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Holy Communion 6.30 p.m. 3rd Sunday.

Holy Communion 8.00 a.m. 1st Sunday.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday, November 11th.

This year at 10.55 a.m., there will be a service of MORNING PRAYER instead of the usual Parish Communion—see article inside magazine. Note—SERVICE STARTS 5 MINUTES EARLIER AT 10.55 a.m.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, November 24th at 3.00 p.m., in Village Church Hall.
Admission 10p. All welcome—gifts of produce much appreciated.

Dear Friends,

There was certainly plenty of activity and increased numbers at our Harvest Thanksgiving events this year. There were 90 people to the Family Communion in the morning and about 200 in the evening. Several people said to me 'Why can't we have a service like this each week?' The answer is of course that we can, provided people are prepared to turn up for it! It is noticeable how after the worship people stop and talk to each other and the time of worship also becomes a time of fellowship. This unity and friendship in the Lord Jesus Christ grows as more people find the time to be involved in worship and open their hearts and minds to what God has to say to them. The purpose of worship isn't just to turn up and go through a 'service' but to learn more about our faith and gather strength so that our witness may be more effective in the places that God put us.

Recently I have been reading the 'Tiller Report' on the future of the full-time ministry in the Church of England. Taken the wrong way, it could make very bleak reading, with the number of full-time clergy dropping from nearly 16,000 in 1963 to 10,800 this year. That's a fall of one-third in twenty years! The main point of the report, however, is to point out that in the future the local churches will not be able to look to a full-time clergyman as an all-singing, all-dancing, universally competent minister—each Christian is in effect a 'minister' of Jesus Christ because of their baptism, which if taken seriously must mean that we are all involved in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In Tiller's words there must be the challenge to 'every Church member to take their baptism seriously, and to realise that through baptism they have already received all the authorisation necessary for them to act as lay ministers of Christ.' Throughout the Church of England there must be millions of people who have been responsible worshipping members of their local congregations but have never brought one person to the point of commitment where they become a regular member—and yet local folk are ideally placed to do just this!

Here in Ansley there is a lot of activity which is directed towards the church and its maintenance, but sadly not one person who was not directly involved in the confirmation preparation came to any of the meetings. Also, earlier this year I remember a meeting where the pastoral job of bringing the Gospel to those families who wish to have their children baptised was explained, but only two people came to this.

In the book of Revelation, the Lord speaks to a church which had 'the reputation of being alive' (Revelation 3 : 1). In fact not much was really going on in the way of increasing spiritual maturity. There are signs of spiritual life in our church, there

are people being brought to a greater awareness of Jesus' love, there are signs of moving forwards in faith—but we could do so much more if we realised that God promises to pour out his Spirit on all those who follow him.

So give thanks and praise to God for our harvest celebrations and for our Sunday School Anniversary service, but let us continue to look up to God, to look out to others, and look forward to greater things !

TIM GOULDSTONE

Have you written to the County Council in support of Church End School yet ?

HARVEST SALE AND BARN DANCE/SUPPER

The Harvest Sale was quite well attended and there seemed to be more produce this year than for some time. Mr. Forryan (aided by the Vicar) acted as auctioneers and £111 was made for church funds. Actually the Vicar had been involved in a similar activity at Chapel End Social Club earlier in the month—next day his arm was pretty stiff from holding up all that produce !

The Supper this year was a sit-down meal which was a change from what we have been doing lately, but it was excellent value and beautifully prepared. The final total attendance was 71, but a few days before it looked much thinner. Why is it that people leave it to the last minute ? John Dell's music was just right and £51 was made for church funds. Thank you to all who helped in this event and who made our church look so beautiful for harvest.

A Jumble Sale in the Church Hall in aid of the Sunday School was held in two parts. **Part 1** on September 29th raised £22 for the Sunday School but as we had a lot left over we advertised it in the 'Tribune' and held **Part 2** on Thursday, October 11th and made another £60. As always a lot of hard work went into this on the part of the Sunday School staff and friends for which we are grateful.

On **Thursday, November 1st** there will be a **Social Evening** in the **Village Church Hall** starting at **7.30 p.m.** There will be a sale of New Garments (ladies and children's wear) at low, very low prices ! There will also be a 'Bring and Buy' stall. Admission will be 25p and proceeds will be for hall funds—we are about to think seriously about 'doing up' the outside of the hall.

Do you know that since January 1981 (excluding fuel and insurance) we have spent £5778 on the church and our two church halls just to maintain them in good order ?

On **Wednesday, November 7th at 7.30 p.m.**, there will be another 'Christians Together' at the U.R.C. Church in Birmingham Road. Several have enjoyed this informal worship and friendship, so make it a date.

There is to be another **Auction Sale** on Thursday, November 8th, all day in the Village Church Hall.

It is a feature of life in Ansley that there is very little formal recognition of Remembrance Day these days—the two minutes' silence is observed during the morning service, but there are very few who come to remember or give thanks. I am only too aware that to actually 'remember' active service in the last war you have to be nearly 60 now, and to 'remember' the First World War service probably over 80. I pose the question—how much longer will this tradition persist? We in this country are very supportive of our forces when there's a war on, but the casualties and victims are too easily forgotten. In common with over half the population of this country I cannot remember the Second World War, but sometimes I feel we should nevertheless be using this day to think about our present situation as well as remembering the past.

For this reason the service at 10.55 a.m., on **Sunday, November 11th** will be one of **Morning Prayer** to which all who wish to participate are invited. It could be that we can proceed to the War Memorial afterwards for the laying of wreaths. Anyone who would like further information is invited to contact the Vicar. Note that the service starts at 10.55 a.m., and not eleven o'clock. Good to see that the War Memorial now looks neat and tidy.

On **Wednesday, November 14th** Jane Gouldstone is holding a 'Tearcraft' evening at the Vicarage from 2.00 till 5.00 p.m. and 6.30 till 8.00 p.m.—all are invited to see, to chat, to buy.

On **Wednesday, November 21st at 7.00 p.m.**, there will be a service of Holy Communion for the Mothers' Union at St. John's Hall.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR, ETC.

This event will be held on **Saturday, November 24th at 3.00 p.m.**, in the Village Church Hall. Gifts of PRODUCE to see will be very welcome and can be left at the Vicarage after November. Come and make this an enjoyable event.

PEOPLE

Peter Linnik's sudden death came as a great blow to his family although he had not been in good health for a number of years. Alice Ivens had a very active life right up to the

time of her death—many were surprised to find that she was as old as 81, for she seemed to have so much energy. Les Bradley died quite suddenly after a short spell in hospital. It is a relief to know that he is at rest and that his troubles are past. To the friends and relatives of these people we offer our prayers and comfort—their loss will leave gaps in the life of the parish.

Especial thanks to all the staff of the Sunday School for the hard work they have been putting in over the years. We held a very enjoyable Family Service to celebrate their tenth birthday and Lindsey McParland presented Mrs. Cove with a floral arrangement as a mark of our gratitude for all that she has done over the years. Lessons were read by Stephanie Stain and Rebecca Whitworth and the 'scholars' sung a song to the accompaniment of Peter McParland's guitar. Two pupils with 'long service' records received copies of the Good News Bible—Duncan Watts and Kerry McDonald.

FOR SALE

One BUTAGAS gas room heater complete with container, price £50. Their use is now illegal in the Village Hall. See Frank Arnold (392055) or the Vicar (392240).

THINK !

There has been a notable increase lately in the incidence of dogs fouling the churchyard. This is not only disrespectful but thoughtless and unsocial. It is also very unpleasant for those who tend the graves of their relatives. So please make sure that this rather unpleasant fact becomes a thing of the past !

THOUGHT !

'The formula for the Christian life is seeking, finding and doing the Father's will, in the Father's world, with the companionship of the Son by the guidance and strength of the Spirit. That is the meaning of our membership of the Church.'

Leaonard Hodgson

'It's the ability to pray about a thing and then leave it which is essential to the task of carrying a lot of people's problems.'

John Habgood, Archbishop of York.

The next **P.C.C. Meeting** is at 8.15 p.m., on Wednesday, November 21st, in St. John's Hall.

Please can we have **Children's Society Boxes** returned to the Church or the Vicarage by December 16th.

FUNERALS

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

October 4—Peter Linnik, 51 St. Lawrence Road, Ansley, aged 66.

October 8—Alice Jane Ivens, 25 Ansley Common, aged 81.

October 9—Thomas Leslie Bradley, 149 Birmingham Road, Ansley, aged 67.