

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 690

DECEMBER 1982

Price 10p

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Worship : 1st Sunday
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said).
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. Evening Prayer.

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.

St. John's Hall—Family Worship at 10.00 a.m., on 4th Sunday.
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.

Christmas Worship for 1982

Sunday, December 19th—Family Service as usual at 11.00 a.m., with Carol Service at 6.30 p.m.

Friday, December 24th—11.30 p.m., Midnight Communion.

Saturday, December 25th—11.00 a.m., Christmas Family Communion.

Sunday, December 26th—11.00 a.m., Holy Communion (no evening service).

Dear Friends,

This month you will find a lot of people mentioned by name in the magazine. There are all sorts of reasons for this—baptisms, bereavements, confirmation and other significant events in life.

The Christian life is about people and their understanding of God; our knowledge of him comes through the Bible, through our worship, but also through the kind act of a Christian person who is motivated by the love of God. God has a human face, that of Jesus Christ. As well as belief and doctrine we need the flesh-and-blood reality of seeing God at work in people's lives, comforting, challenging and guiding our own.

The Gospels show us 'The Human Face of God.' Sometimes we spend years assuming that God has nothing to do with the likes of us. But Jesus was man—not God in disguise or a 'super-man' figure, living in the land of fairy tales and make-believe. There is a realism about Jesus that mere religion often hides.

For religion without faith, religion without an understanding of the wonder of God's grace is as much a menace to the civilised world as the blackest evil.

At Christmas we remember that God didn't stand outside the world and its problems and failures, criticising it from a distance. He got involved with us, with an imperfect family in a far from perfect nation. Jesus of Nazareth is not a sentimental picture for Christmas—he is God with us, where we are; what is our response to him this Christmas?

Best wishes and Christian greetings to you all from the vicarage family. Tim, Jane and Rebecca.

BEGINNING, MILESTONE OR END ?

The one who sows and the one who waters
really do not matter. It is God who matters
because he makes the plant grow.

(1 Corinthians 3 : 7)

Ten people from this parish were confirmed this month. Sometimes folk have seen this as 'the end' as far as their Christian commitment is concerned. Only the candidate and God can ensure that it is a milestone on their Christian pilgrimage. It is more of a **new beginning** when people take upon themselves the vows that were made for them at baptism. This must be a voluntary commitment on the part of the candidates, whatever age they are—otherwise it is emptied of most of its meaning.

Recent trends have been for an increase in adult confirmation. This has happened in reaction to the 'Confirmation Machine' idea which youngsters were 'put through.' Of course it can be a real step at any age but I would much rather someone wait until they really understand rather than give in to pressure. I refused at the age of 15 or so and was later confirmed at 21 (giving the lie to the fact that Vicars are different from ordinary mortals and fell from heaven with dog collars on).

The text talks about 'sowing, watering and growing.' One can easily sow seed; but God gives faith and growth. Pray for these people that they may grow in Christian maturity.

A few years ago the Archbishops published 'a short guide to the duties of Church Membership'—hardly an inspiring title, but the items should make us examine our own commitment.

- To follow the example of Christ in home and daily life, and to bear personal witness to him.
- To be regular in private prayer every day.
- To read the Bible carefully.
- To come to church every Sunday.
- To receive the Holy Communion regularly and carefully.
- To give personal service to Church, neighbours and community.
- To give money for the work of the parish and diocese and for the work of the church at home and overseas.

To uphold the standards of marriage entrusted by Christ and his Church.

To care that children are brought up to love and serve the Lord.

It seems that we don't ask enough of people; we ask too little commitment and give away faith for nothing. If we all got our teeth into the practical application of this list we could stop worrying about finance, about buildings, about maintenance and start worrying about overcrowding !

MOVEMENTS

There are fewer people in Ansley parish than there were ten years ago—DESPITE new building such as Nuthurst Crescent. In 1971 there were 2314; last year 2287. Younger people leave the area because of the lack of available housing when they marry—this results in an ageing population with more households occupied by one elderly person or a retired couple. Over sixty households in the village are occupied by one person—probably more in Ansley Common. What do these trends mean for the life of village institutions such as churches and schools ?

NOTES AND NEWS

There will be an **Evening of Seasonal Music and local slides** in the Village Church Hall on Tuesday, December 7th at 7.30 p.m. Admission will be 20p plus 10p for a cup of tea, etc.

Proceeds will be for the new boiler which we hope to install soon. The present one has two settings, namely (1) out (2) running like a blast furnace. The slides include some of the Flower Festival, some of the 'Fun Day' last August and some unfamiliar corners of our parish. Come and see.

The GFS are holding an **'Event'** (a sort of concert-cum-play I think) in the Village Church Hall on Monday, December 13th at 7.00 p.m. Admission Free. Come and see what they have prepared. They all enjoyed a Hallowe'en Party last month with a real live magician from Coventry.

On Tuesday, December 14th there is a **'Warehouse Party'** in the Village Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. Soft materials etc., will be on sale. Further details of this later—at the moment it has something of the status of a mystery event but looks well worthwhile.

We record the deaths of two former employees of Ansley Hall Mine this month. Mr. Thomas Nicholas of Piper's Lane worked there for many years. Mr. Fred Stringer of Railway Terrace, Ansley Common was also employed there and at Haunchwood, then at 'The Workshops.' Our thoughts are with his daughter Mary and her husband Tony Williams of Railway Terrace and other relatives of the family.

We also note the passing of Mr. Henry Drew of St. Lawrence Road. Mr. Drew had been ill for some considerable time, an illness born without complaint and with a very courageous spirit. Our prayers and sympathy are with Mrs. Doreen Drew and all his many friends and relatives. Mr. Drew was a real community figure and always ready to help.

FOR SALE

Astronomical Telescope : 3½ inch (90 mm) reflecting telescope on extendable tripod. Two eyepieces, sighting telescope. Little used, in original box, £55. Contact Mr. Anthony Hewitt, 405 Tunnel Road, Ansley.

THANKS

We acknowledge with gratitude a gift of £200 from the estate of the late Mrs. Lovegrove of Plough Hill Road.

Where would you find the following near Ansley ?

Etruria Marl	base	at 690 feet
Four feet	3 feet 10 inches	at 939 feet
Two yard	7 feet	at 1010 feet
Bare	6 feet 10 inches	at 1017 feet
Ell	5 feet	at 1025 feet
Slate	10 feet 3 inches	at 1051 feet
Seven feet	4 feet 10 inches	at 1111 feet
Sunk to		1115 feet

ST. JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION

Wednesday, December 15th at 7.00 p.m.

An example of how everyone is related to everyone else (well, nearly) in Ansley is the baptism this month of Claire Hewitt and Paul Jackson—they are cousins. We welcome the Jackson family to Nuthurst Crescent from Bucks Hill. Incidentally Graham's father is no stranger to our Church; he takes wedding photographs !

We hope to undertake some carol singing around the village this year in aid of the Church of England Children's Society. Watch and listen from 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday, December 12th.

CONFIRMATION

by the Bishop of Warwick at St. Michael's, Arley
on November 18th.

Keith McDonald	31 Copsewood Avenue, Nuneaton.
Linda Murray	31 St. Lawrence Road.
Terence Murray	31 St. Lawrence Road.
Stephanie Stain	38 Hickman Road, Galley Common.
William Lloyd	179 Ansley Common.
Mary Lloyd	179 Ansley Common.
Norman Woods	173 Ansley Common.
Emily Martin	120 Birmingham Road.
Agnes Connor	20 Croftmead.
Ann Cartwright	14 St. Lawrence Road.

BAPTISM

on November 21st.

Laura Elizabeth Judge-Porter	403 Tunnel Road.
Ryan David Flemens	2 Well Cottages, Ansley.
Claire Louise Hewitt	405 Tunnel Road.
Paul Graham Jackson	31 Nuthurst Crescent.

FUNERALS

Thomas Rowland Nicholls, aged 74, 32 Pipers Lane.
Frederick Freeman Stringer, aged 72, 1 Railway Terrace, Ansley Common.
Henry Drew, aged 61, 47 St. Lawrence Road.