



Ansley Church News

No. 714

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Price 10p

"God will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us
and to shine from heaven on all those who live in the
dark shadow of death,
to guide our steps into the path of peace." Luke 1:79

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Sunday, December 16th:

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer (1662)
(not Family Worship this month).
6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Sunday, December 23rd:

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
6.30 p.m. **CAROL SERVICE.**

Monday, December 24th — Christmas Eve:

11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion.

Tuesday, December 25th — Christmas Day:

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

CAROL SINGING around village in aid of Children's Society,
meet at "Nelson," 11.00 a.m. on Sunday, December 23rd.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PLAY — Friday, December 21st at 7.30 p.m.,
in the Village Church Hall — "Trig Trog and the Christmas
Children."

ALL WELCOME — REFRESHMENTS

DECORATING THE CHURCH — Saturday, December 22nd,
after 9.30 a.m.

Dear Friends,

It is customary at Christmas to read the beginning of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke to see how the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, came to a needy world. He was born outside a small hotel in an obscure Jewish village in the great days of the Roman Empire. Unfortunately the story becomes prettified and sentimentalised when we tell it at Christmas, but the Gospels make plain that what happened was really rather beastly and cruel. The reason why Jesus was born outside the hotel was that it was full and nobody would offer a bed to a woman in labour. But it is not the circumstances of the birth that interest the Gospel writers, but the identity of the child. The message of all four Gospels is that Jesus represents God's activity in the world, his personal visit to us and for us. Jesus' birth means that God himself was involved in the cruelty and risk of human suffering. Jesus, in his childhood and life, shows that God is not unsympathetic to our human experiences, our joys, our happiness, our sorrows, our losses. Jesus is not "unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but . . . in every respect has been tempted as we are . . ." (Hebrews 4:15).

The Christmas message is a message of Christ. It is that there is hope; of pardon, of peace with God and of Glory. At God's will Jesus Christ became poor; God came to where we are so that we might go to where he is! We talk glibly of the 'Christmas Spirit,' rarely meaning more than sentimental jollity on a family basis. But what we believe as Christmas should make it clear that the Christmas Spirit carries a tremendous meaning. It ought to mean that everyone who by faith claims a personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ should strive to show to others by word and deed that God **is** alive, that God **does** care, that faith, hope and love are more important than anything else in the life of our church and parish. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor . . ." (2 Corinthians 8:9).

May the peace and love of God be with you all this Christmas.

TIM GOULDSTONE

A MOVE

The Vicar has accepted the nomination of the Church Pastoral Aid Society to the benefice of St. Keverne in Cornwall. However he will not be moving until next summer. This represents for us a move back to our own area, as I spent the greater part of my life in Devon and was in fact an ordinand from the Diocese of Exeter, and Jane is of course from Cornwall. The appointment of my successor is in the hands of the Church Patronage Trust, who have appointed vicars to this parish since 1924.

We have enjoyed our time here in "The Midlands" but feel that after what will be eight years' absence (including our time in Hertfordshire) that it is right for us to return to the West Country.

Such times are an opportunity for ministry and fellowship to be fostered not only within the parish of Ansley but also in

the Group Ministry of Ansley, Arley, Fillongley and Corley. Although the local church is the most important unit of mission, it would be very foolish these days for it to stand alone, and my hope and prayer is that we will do all we can over the coming months to encourage our mutual fellowship in the Lord Jesus Christ.

TIM AND JANE GOULDSTONE,
Becky and David.

St. Keverne is south of Camborne on the Lizard peninsula and includes the seaside village of Coverack. There was a 'Songs of Praise' on T.V. from Coverack about eighteen months ago.

ATTENTION — ANSLEY COMMON !

Have you heard of the venture just starting up at Chapel End Methodist School Room, Coleshill Road ?

If you or someone you know are fed up at home and would like to get out to meet people or perhaps you are unemployed, or a one parent family, this new venture may be of interest to you. Any age is welcome from one to ninety.

We are hoping you will share your skills with others or maybe even learn a new one. Men, women or teenagers, we all have something we can help each other with. So come along for a coffee and a chat; on your own you will soon make new friends, or better still why not bring your friends too.

We are open on Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11.30. So please whoever you are feel free to join us.

For more information you may 'phone Sue 395825, Iris 394540 or Eileen 396482.

3 A's YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME

Readers of the 'Tribune' will have seen a feature on a new venture of this scheme, a Luncheon Club that meets on Wednesdays at 12.30 p.m. and serves the area of Gun Hill and Hill Top, Arley. About 24 people have availed themselves of this facility, which is undertaken by the catering section of the scheme—and I can assure you that the food is very good !

This is a 25-place scheme and at the moment only 12 places have been taken up for the year 1984-85. There was a period a few weeks ago when the future of this project was in doubt owing to the smaller numbers, but it was renewed for a further year. So if you are 16 and unemployed and want to make yourself useful, contact Yvonne Roan on Fillongley 42172—the pay is £26.25 per week. The scheme provides a good opportunity to meet other people, learn skills and do something useful.

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Don't forget the Christmas worship and events, all of which are given on the front page of this magazine.

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED !

A glance at this year's 'Diocesan Directory' reveals that the total number of people on the electoral rolls of our four churches is as follows:

Parish	Population	Electoral Roll
Ansley	2285	130
Arley	2750	48
Fillongley	1480	89
Corley	700	93

Thus the church membership of the four parishes of the Ley Group represents about five per cent (1 person in 20) of the population which is slightly higher than the national average.

The Remembrance Day service went well and it was encouraging to see a good number in attendance this year. This particular format of using Morning Prayer is well worth repeating. Thank you to all who came and to our friends from Chapel End and Hartshill.

We would like to thank Age Concern for their generous grant towards the cost of renovating the railings at St. John's Hall and for the provision of easier access to the premises. I understand that the twice-weekly luncheon club and its associated "Pop In" activities have some 57 people 'on the books,' but it seems that fewer than half these people actually come from Ansley Common itself. I wonder why this is?

It is hoped that we can start on these railings in the near future.

The Confirmation at Corley on November 1st was an enjoyable occasion—we just about managed to get everyone in the church and afterwards partook of 'Kentucky Fried' in the Church Hall across the road. Our next joint 'do' as a Group of Parishes will be a Songs of Praise at Ansley on Sunday, January 27th at 6.30 p.m.

The Social Evening in the Church Hall in the village was enjoyed by a large number of people and £57 was made for hall funds. Our electric heating in this building has now been modernised thanks to Mr. David Flemens and we have decided to go ahead with the external re-decoration of the hall using the Nuneaton Deanery Synod Manpower Scheme. All we need now is some fine weather . . .

Please remember our Children's Society boxes and return them to the Church or Vicarage by December 16th.

ENVELOPES — the freewill offering envelopes are now available for 1985, and can be collected from the church. If you do not already contribute to this scheme please think very carefully

about it, for it is a means of giving to the Lord's work that is both regular and disciplined. If you are a church member, remember that even if you can't come every week the worship and mission and outreach of the people of God must continue and needs consistent support. As the apostle Paul said, "Each Sunday each of you must put aside some money, in proportion to what he has earned, and save it up, so that there will be no need to collect money . . ." (1 Corinthians 16:2).

If you wish to join this scheme please see Margaret Antill if you want a set of envelopes, and please tell her if you take a set.

WORSHIP CHANGE

At a P.C.C. meeting on Wednesday, November 21st the council voted to try out a service of Morning Prayer (based on the Alternative Service Book 1980) on the **FIRST** and **FIFTH** Sundays of the month at 11.00 a.m. for an experimental period of six months beginning on **January 6th**. This will replace our parish communion service for this period.

Charles Cooper (Charlie) passed away very suddenly last month which was a great shock to his wife and family and many friends in Ansley Common. A former employee of British Rail at Stockingford his cheerfulness will be missed. Mrs. Hindle had been fighting ill health since last summer and bore a distressing illness with much courage and strength. Our thoughts are with Bob Hindle and their relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Hindle kept a shop from the end of the last war for 23 years in the premises now occupied by Ansley's surgery. Mrs. Willdig had spent various periods in hospital over the past few years and had been far from well for a long time. Mrs. Randle lived in Ansley Common for many years, latterly in one of the purpose-built sheltered accommodation bungalows but increasing frailty meant hospital care for her last few months. She was a member of St. John's M.U. Our sympathy is with her family and with Mr. George Willdig.

BAPTISM

November 18—Katie Baginskis, 89 Wiclif Way.

CONFIRMATION

by the Bishop of Coventry at Corley Parish Church
on November 1st

Brian Anthony Martin, 18 Nuthurst Crescent, Ansley.
Kathleen Phillips, 6 Croft Mead, Ansley.

MARRIAGE

November 24—Michael George Craddock and Dianne Smedley.

FUNERALS

November 2—Charles Louis Cooper, 14 Bretts Hall Est., aged 77.
November 7—Beatrice Hindle, 70 Birmingham Road, aged 66.
November 23—Evelyn Violet Willdig, 24 Nuthurst Crescent,
aged 70.
November 23—Ena Randle, formerly of Ansley Common, aged 88.