

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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The Vicarage,
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December 1st, 1986

Our Dear Friends,

I was talking to a man today who claimed that science has disproved the reality of God and all we know of religion. About one year ago I met a man who said more or less the same thing; then went on to tell me that he could not understand his neighbour who inspite of the fact that he is a leading scientist at Newcastle-on-Tyne University, starts each day by guiding his family in prayers and Bible reading and takes them all to Church each Sunday.

The confusion in the minds of many today concerning the relevance of Christianity in this 'modern' age is possibly caused by much that is presented on television by such people as David Attenburgh. We must remember that he is only expressing one viewpoint. Many scientists would disagree with him.

Many of the founders of modern science were men with a firm belief in God. Galileo Galilei and Sir Isaac Newton are good examples. Newton has been called 'the greatest British scientist of all time.' Michael Faraday who discovered electromagnetism; Sir James Simpson who discovered the anaesthetic properties of Chloroform and Lord Joseph Lister who pioneered antiseptic surgery. Each of these men was deeply religious, in addition to being a brilliant scientist. Simpson was asked to name his greatest discovery. He replied, "It was not chloroform. My greatest discovery has been to know that I am a sinner and that I could be saved by the grace of God."

Many present day top professional scientists are convinced Christians who have written about the relationship between Science and Christianity. Donald M. MacKay, Professor of Communication at Keele University (he is an expert on the workings of the human brain and the theory of computers) is a distinguished example. So also is Robert Boyd who was Professor of Physics at University College London and head of the Mullard Space Research Laboratory. In answer to the question "Who runs the world?" he replied in these words, "I believe God runs the world, I made this discovery not from my experiments in space, but from my long familiarity with and daily habit of reading the Bible. I became convinced that in Christ God is showing us Himself. Because I found Christ trustworthy I came to love and to trust the Book His Character commends. There I found that Christ and the Biblical authors held that God is behind everything, that God makes the sun to rise, God

orders the heavens, God runs the world, it is His creation." That the world is a very disordered place is not God's fault but rebellious mankind.

So if it is true that Christianity and Science are not opposed, why do so many people think that they are ? The probable reason is that there was a clash between them caused by the writings of Charles Darwin, a clash which he never intended. He wrote, "I cannot believe with my mind that all this was produced by chance," therefore there was someone who caused it to be brought into being in the first place. He spoke about 'The Creator' and of the need to study "God's word" and "God's works."

By the way, every newspaper, every contract, every letter, and every book that carries the date points to the Lord's birth and silently proclaims His impact upon the ages.

Have a good Christmas,

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

SERVICES IN DECEMBER 1986

Sunday, December 7th — Advent 2

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Family Communion "Bible Sunday."

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Sunday, December 14th — Advent 3

10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's.

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Christmas Family Night.

Thursday, December 18th

7.00 p.m. Christmas Family Night at St. John's, Ansley Common.

Sunday, December 21st — Advent 4

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. The Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Eve — Holy Communion 11.30 p.m.

Christmas Day — Family Communion 11.00 a.m.

Sunday, December 28th — Holy Innocents Day

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY NIGHT

At the Parish Church — Sunday, December 14th.

At St. John's, Ansley Common — Thursday, December 18th.

The Sunday School children will perform a short Nativity play. The Church Army Brownies from Ansley Common will contribute an item. The Pathfinders will take a part and the Church Orchestra will accompany the Carol singing.

CALL TO MISSION

The Bishop of our Diocese calls the people of every parish to "Mission." Bishop Simon writes "By 'mission' I mean a movement of God's Spirit in which we are so grasped and filled with the awareness of God's love for us that that love overflows into the world around us. God sends us out from our worship to witness in a whole variety of ways, in our work and in our neighbourhood, both by living out His love, and by pointing to its source in Christ."

The Bishop asks us to review our present mission activity in our locality. The P.C.C. is asked to become the focus for Mission. We have commenced with a time of discussion at P.C.C.'s and we must also remember that Jesus said "Go into the whole world and share the Good News" therefore part of our Christian commitment is to pray for and support overseas work in an informed way.

BLUE PETER BRING AND BUY SALE

Blue Peter Sight Savers Appeal—helping the fight for sight in Africa.

Bring and Buy Sale on Saturday, December 13th, at 2.00 p.m., in the Church Hall.

THE PRICE GOES UP

It is with great regret that the Church Council has to increase the price of the magazine in January 1987. For the past few years it has not been paying its way and the Church has made up the loss. This situation could not go on indefinitely. Sorry! So as from January next year the cost of each magazine will be 13p. However if the cost for the whole year is paid in January then it will be £1.50.

THANKS FOR LONG SERVICE FOR THE MAGAZINE

Mrs. Rene Faulkner has decided that she must cease being a distributor of the Church Magazine. Since January 1950 until now—thirty-six years—she has delivered on average 35 magazines each month to people living in the middle of the Village. This is in total quite a number of magazines. The Church sincerely thanks her for this wonderful length of service and hopes that she will enjoy a long and happy retirement. Mrs. Marie Cove will take over her work as from December this year.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Thanksgiving for a Birth

"They brought Children to Jesus"

Nov. 16—Christopher John Read.

Laid to Rest

Oct. 30—Henry Septimus Carter, Kingswood Road, aged 78 yrs.

Nov. 6—Florence May Cowley, Croftmead, aged 83 yrs.

Nov. 14—Lena Winifred Wilson, Birmingham Road, aged 81 yrs.

October has been a sad month for the Church congregation because two of its long serving lady members have been called to higher service.

Mrs. Doll Cowley on November 6th. Doll has done lots of quiet work behind the scenes. For years she helped to run the Church Hall Whist Drives held three times a fortnight. She was always there when the church needed a spring clean and at Church Fetes and Sales she was always behind the scenes doing some sort of quiet job. She always sat in the pew by the door. We shall miss her very much.

Mrs. Win. Wilson left us on November 14th. She had been a member of the Church for a long time. She was in the choir when it sat in the **gallery** at the back of the Church in the 1920's and for some time afterwards she sat in the present choir stalls when the gallery was removed. Of recent years she has been a very regular member of the evening congregation. We shall also miss her.

To the families and friends of these two ladies the church sends its sympathy at this sad time and pray that God will help them recover from their loss.

PATHFINDERS

We commenced a Young People's Fellowship on November 10th in the Village Church Hall. It is held each Monday evening at 6.45 and lasts for an hour. The programme for December is:

Dec. 1—Food, Fun and Games !

Dec. 8—Badminton.

Dec. 15—Food and Friends !

We welcome a Group from Nuneaton.

Dec. 22—Carol Singing in the Village for Tear Fund.

Dec. 29—We go to a Party at Nuneaton.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE SOCIETY ?

The Society was founded in 1802 by a group of men who realised the need for Bibles to be made available to ordinary families in this country at prices they could afford. Their vision soon developed into a world vision and the British and Foreign Bible Society was founded.

The Society's vision for making the Bible available to every person in **every** language is still its aim today.

More next month, about St. Lawrence's Church's involvement.