

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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The Vicar would like to hear of cases of sickness. Please send messages to the Vicarage.

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December 1st, 1987

Our Dear Friends,

On October 19th, 1851 an extra-ordinary event took place during the morning service at the parish Church of England at Baldhu in Cornwall. It was whilst the vicar, the Rev. William Haslam was preaching about the Pharisees being condemned because they failed to believe in Jesus. Explaining the event sometime later he said, "I do not remember all I said but I felt a wonderful light and joy coming into my soul. Whether it was something in my words or my manner, or my look, I do not know; but all of a sudden a member of the congregation stood up, and putting up his arms, called out in the Cornish manner, 'The parson's converted! Hallelujah!' and in another moment his voice was lost in shouts and praises from three or four hundred people in the congregation."

We can well imagine how news of such an event would quickly spread through the village, neither would it be difficult to understand the varied reactions from the parishioners. Some would be glad, others would be mad. Some would be encouraged others would be critical. There would be those who would join and those who would leave. Imagine some saying, "How dare such behaviour be allowed during a service in our Church!"

It is interesting to record that the vicar, who incidently has gone down in history as the preacher who was converted in his own pulpit during one of his own sermons, was always opposed to any sort of extravagance; but careful to add that (to put it in his own words) "anything is better than the stillness of death, however aesthetic and beautiful, however reverential and devout, traditional and dignified."

It is said that for a long time after in Baldhu village there were some miracles of grace in the hearts of sinners or in the lives of backsliders as they found their way back to Christian faith. The effects of William Haslam's ministry was felt far and wide. He wanted to make up for the first eight years during which time he had misled people about the way of salvation. The commencement of the now famous Keswick Convention, which last July celebrated its 112th year, traces its founding to Haslam's influence.

Here in Ansley Parish we continue to hear of Parishioners whose lives have been quietly changed as they have taken seriously the words of Christ and found that speaking to Him can become a profound reality. In consequence of this the Wednesday fellowship has expanded into at least six house groups. These are held in various parts of our parish. Anyone reading these lines who would like to attend a house group, do let us know and we will put you in touch with the nearest one to your home.

May the Lord give you a sense of His presence and peace in your hearts and homes this Christmas time.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 1987

Tuesday, December 1st

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union Christmas Party in Ansley Village Hall.

Wednesday, December 2nd

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship in the Vicarage.

Sunday, December 6th — Advent 2

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Is the Bible necessary?"

Monday, December 7th

8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting, Ansley Village Hall.

Sunday, December 13th — Advent 3

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Christmas Family Night. "Bethlehem"

Monday, December 14th

7.00 p.m. Carol Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.
Refreshments served afterwards.

Wednesday, December 16th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship at the Vicarage.

Sunday, December 20th — Advent 4

10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols. "Christmas Night"

Monday, December 21st

6.45 p.m. Carol Singing around Ansley Village.
Come and join us tonight.

Thursday, December 24th — Christmas Eve

10.00 p.m. Holy Communion at St. John's, Ansley Common.

11.30 p.m. Holy Communion at the Parish Church. "My Gift"

Christmas Day

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

Sunday, December 27th

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "The old is going, the new is
coming"

Ansley Village Mothers' Union will hold their Christmas Party in the hall at 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1st. Guests include St. John's Ansley Common Mothers' Union and Arley Women's Fellowship. Carols will be sung and there will be a bring and buy stall.
Margaret Salisbury

Many thanks to Peter and Jennifer Wooliscroft who kindly opened their home for a Coffee Evening in aid of Church and hall funds. £111.00 was raised.

Christmas Family Night is the title of the Evening Service on Sunday, December 13th. The orchestra will lead the carol singing and the Sunday School will be involved in a Christmas play.

Carol Singing around the parish commencing at 6.45 p.m. on December 21st. Come and join us. Or if you would like the singers to call at your home to sing a carol please let us know.

FOOTBALLERS' FAITH

There were 170 present in the international room at Tottenham Hotspur F.C. for the annual Christians in Sport dinner.

Sports represented at professional or top-class amateur level included football, rugby union, badminton, table tennis, golf and athletics.

Guests heard Alan Comfort of Orient F.C. share how the quality of a Christian team mate's life had led him to examine the claims of Jesus Christ and eventually to become a Christian.

The second speaker was Alan West, former captain of Luton Town and now player-manager of Hitchin Town, as well as being pastor of the Luton Christian Centre. He challenged listeners to commit their lives to Christ.

A member of our congregation has written his impressions of the Harvest Weekend Event, he writes as follows:

The Corby Experience

Following our Bishop's call to mission and backing by Ansley P.C.C. an invitation was sent to Rev. Roger Morgan and his team to visit Ansley Parish on May 9th and October 9th to 11th. The object being to assist with the call to mission.

On May 9th the Corby team arrived in Ansley Parish and were invited to various people's homes for meals where initial discussions took place. Later we all gathered in the Church Hall where the Rev. Roger Morgan spoke. A definite plan of action was prepared for October 9th to 11th. The Corby people asked us to pray for them and people in the parish who we considered would be ready for asking Jesus into their life.

Following this visit a great deal of discussion took place both inside the P.C.C. and outside. This was a good thing because people were actually taking an interest in the event.

At the Harvest Weekend

Our Coffee meeting started in low key but with a lot of anticipation. We had two speakers, a man and a woman, who were from entirely different backgrounds, but it was obvious that both had dedicated their lives to Jesus Christ. The lady a so called Christian who went to church regularly but discovered

there was something seriously lacking from her life—she found Jesus Christ when she met committed Christians who were nurses at the hospital where she worked.

The man speaker was born in a rough part of Scotland where it was normal to carry a knife in order to survive; he discovered his life was futile—he found Christ in his local church.

The two speakers were full of the Holy Spirit and as they talked you could feel the emotion present in the room. Afterwards six people were able to say the special prayer and indicated they would like extra counselling to enable their feelings to be made firmly by prayers and bible reading.

The Harvest Supper was the usual well organised affair with a great deal of Christian fellowship. The Corby people were prominent in the Christian talks that took place following the meal. As a social evening it rated very high and it showed the importance of social events like that upon our church life in our parish.

The enthusiasm aroused by the Corby team amongst the children was something I shall remember for a long time. Looking back over the weekend at what was achieved one can only say that the love of God which passes all understanding was present and ran like a cord through the whole proceedings, leaving a vivid impression of what had and could be done.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH 1988

The list for ladies to provide flowers in the Church for the year 1988 is in the Church Porch now. There are still many vacant places. Will any lady (or man) who would like to clean Church Brass and provide flowers for the altar and other places, please sign your name on the weeks of your choice. If you would like to have a word with Mr. Truelove it would help.

Many thanks to those good people who have done this piece of church work during 1987. The flowers and brass have always looked well. They give Ansley Church the appearance of being well cared for.

Congratulations to George and Phylis Hodgkins who last month celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, a wonderful record for which to thank the Lord.

Many thanks to the gentlemen who very kindly cleaned the Church building of dust and cobwebs that over the years had collected in unreachable places though it could be seen with the naked eye. It all looks much better now.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism — “I turn to Christ”

November 22—Gita Cara Barsby of Ansley Common.
Rachel Jane Kent of Ansley Village.

Funeral — “Blessed are those that die in the Lord”

September 25—Clare Emily Raynor, 89 years, of Ansley Common.