

Heatherside Church



Issue No. 4
February 1985

A NEWS SHEET FOR EVERYONE ON HEATHERSIDE

TIME AND SEASONS

The Christian calendar is often viewed as Christmas - Easter - Harvest, which go round in a continuous loop. Christmas is behind us so Easter must be soon. "When is it this year, early or late?" is the usual question. "Why can't they standardize it like Christmas? We'd know where we are then."

Well, it's a long story but it links to the Jewish Passover which, being the older festival and moveable, controls the timing of Easter.

"But what is the reason for celebrating Easter?" you may ask. "After all, thousands of Jews were crucified by the Romans."

The truth that matters is that the only Son of God, worshipped as His gift to us at Christmas, was put to death in this barbaric manner for healing, befriending and helping all those in need. "I can find no fault with this man," said Pontius Pilate. We too can find no fault with him and want to let him into our hearts. After all, there was no other good enough to pay the price of sin.

He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no-one cared about his fate. He was put to death for the sins of our people. *Isaiah 53 v.8*

NEWS FROM THE CURATE'S LODGE

There seems to be very little training for parenthood apart from the example and memories of our own parents. Yet as parents we have the responsibility of shaping the lives of the next generation. In our own individual way we are involved in forming the world of the future. No mean task!

How do our children learn a sense of values or priorities, judging right and wrong? To a large extent they adopt or reject the examples and views of parents, just as we did, often without really examining those views at all. These attitudes are not really the sort of thing which can be taught in our schools, but they are closely bound up with belief and faith. How are we going to equip the next generation to answer questions about marriage and divorce, surrogate motherhood and abortion, war and euthanasia, poverty and wealth?

There is talk of making Religious Education an option in schools, thus putting the full weight of responsibility for a balanced input on parents and the church. As the church on Heatherside, we welcome you and your children to share with us in discovering a faith which gives shape to our lives and teaches God's ways as shown in the Bible.

LADIES DISCUSSION GROUP

What relevance has the Bible in our everyday lives? Is it possible that God wants to give us an additional dimension in our lives? Easier to answer sitting in church on Sunday morning, but what about Monday to Saturday? Getting the children off to school, doing housework, holding down a job, waiting in the supermarket queue, relaxing with family and friends, etc. Does God care how we live? Can the Bible really offer any solutions to life in 1985?

We meet on Thursdays at 10am for coffee and chat, then spend some time looking at what the Bible says on a particular subject. Everyone has a chance to ask questions, share ideas, opinions and experiences. Our discussions have included topics such as 'Overcoming depression', 'Friendship', 'Prejudices', 'Christian parenthood' and 'Patience' (or our lack of it!). The atmosphere is informal and relaxed and we finish at 11.30 to collect children from the creche which is provided at a nearby home. We couldn't say we've found all the answers, but we are seeing how God does care about us and is ready to answer prayer.

If you have the feeling of being 'out there on your own' why not join our friendly group? Maybe you will find some answers for yourself. Ring me on Camberley 28492 if you would like to know more about the Ladies Discussion Group on Heatherside.

CAN THE CAMBERLEY CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED HELP YOU? This Centre at the United Reformed Church, Southwell Park Road, is now open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 10am to 12 noon. It has already been of practical help to many people who have recently been made redundant, or who have been unemployed for a longer period. People who call may have an enquiry about their entitlement to State benefits, need support in job-seeking such as help with the preparation of a C.V., or request some other specific assistance. Others may just be glad of someone with whom to share their concern.

Anyone who calls can rely on a friendly welcome, and confidentiality if seeking help.

UNLIKELY START

There were thirteen boys, all eight years old, sitting together in a morning service. The sweet papers rustled and whispers passed to and fro. The preacher patiently continued his sermon.

The noise got worse, and suddenly the preacher broke off. "There are thirteen boys sitting along that row," he said. The whole row froze. And then, "Jesus began with only twelve young men, and He changed the world."

YESTERDAY, God helped me,
TO-DAY, He did the same.
How long will this continue?
FOREVER, Praise His name.

THANK YOU

In our last Bulletin we asked for clothing and food for our friends working in the London City Mission. Well, due to the super response from everyone, we were able to send two cars absolutely full to London after our service on 16th December. We received lots of clothing, toys, food, and over 3,000 servings of soup in packets and tins.

Letters of thanks were received from the Mission expressing their gratitude, and with the severe weather which followed Christmas the soup was very welcome among the homeless who rely on such charity.

Thank you for your generosity. Any further offers of help can be made to the Rev. Neil Barker, 119 Cumberland Road.

A PIECE OF CLAY

I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day,
And as my fingers pressed it still
It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again when days were past;
The feel of clay was hard at last.
The form I gave it, it still bore,
But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay
And gently formed it day by day,
And moulded with my press and art
A young child's soft and yielding heart.

I came again when years were gone;
It was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impress bore
And I could change it never more.

SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY SUNDAY at 11am and 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

MORNING SERVICES	-	1st Sunday	Morning Worship and Baptism
		2nd "	Morning Worship
		3rd "	Scouts & Guides Parade and Family Service
		4th "	Holy Communion
		5th "	Morning Worship

Junior Church for ages 4-15 is held every Sunday morning with the exception of the 3rd Sunday in the month, and a creche is provided every Sunday for children under 4.

EVENING SERVICES	-	2nd Sunday in the month	Holy Communion
		1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays	Evening Worship

HEATHERSIDE CHURCH welcomes everyone from all denominations. It was founded as an ecumenical venture between the Methodist Church and the Parish of St. Paul's, Church of England.

Minister in Charge: The Rev. Neil Barker, Curate's Lodge, 119 Cumberland Road, Heatherside. Tel. Camberley 20897 (Day off Wednesday)