

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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Our Dear Friends,

There was an advertisement which read, You have 24 hours to live ! but underneath in very fine print appeared these words: Today, that is ! The sign served as a catchy reminder that we should live each day as if it were our last—for it might be !

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we are once again made aware of the relentless march of time. Every minute carries us inevitably towards eternity.

Someone once wrote these words, "I've only just a minute only 60 seconds in it, Forced upon me—can't refuse it, Didn't seek it, didn't choose it, But it's up to me to use it, Give account if I abuse it; Just a tiny little minute, But eternity is in it !"

One minute can alter the course of a life, especially if, during that minute, the life is surrendered to Jesus Christ. That was true in the case of a woman, a nurse, who was out walking one evening with her brother when they were attacked by a gang who killed her brother before her eyes. The gang escaped and were never apprehended. Some months later, while on night duty at the hospital where she worked, she recognised one of the patients as the man who had murdered her brother. Her first feeling was of revenge. The man was extremely ill—hovering between life and death. She realised that with the slightest neglect he would die. His life was absolutely in her hands. But instead of revenge, she decided for Christ's sake to forgive him. She fought for his life and won, nursing him back to health. When he recovered, she told him who she was. The man looked at her in astonishment and said, "Why didn't you let me die when you had me at your mercy ?" "I just couldn't," she replied. "I am a follower of Christ and He forgave His enemies who crucified Him. I must do the same for His sake." "Well," said the man, "if this is what it means to be a Christian, I want to be one also."

As this new year commences take a minute and use it to deliberately surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. Ask Him to make you clean, and give you the attitude that forgives all past injuries. Retaliation and harbouring of resentment will then belong to a dead past; and 1987 will be a new beginning.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

SERVICES IN JANUARY 1987

Saturday, January 3rd

2.30 p.m. Inaugural Service for the Call to Mission in Partnership. At Coventry Cathedral.

Sunday, January 4th — Christmas II

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer — "Is there life after death ?"

Tuesday, January 6th — The Feast of the Epiphany — No Service

Sunday, January 11th — Epiphany I

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Sunday, January 18th — Epiphany II

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion — "Are the redeemed in heaven conscious or unconscious?"

Sunday, January 25th — Epiphany III

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

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer—"Shall we know each other there?"

The Ansley Common "6 o'clock club" will be having a party on Saturday, January 10th at 3.30 to 5.30 p.m., at St. John's Hall.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Marriage — "The two shall be one"

Nov. 29—Timothy James Bennett to Carole Ann West.

Laid to Rest

Dec. 11—Peter John Bazeley, Kingsbridge Road, aged 48 years.

It is with a heavy heart that we record the passing of Peter Bazeley at the early age of 48 years. He first appeared in public as a Roman Soldier in the Village Pantomime put on in the Chapel Schoolroom in the early 1950's—he had trouble with his cross-legged garters!

He helped the Church in many practical ways especially with the installing of the first floodlights for the Rev. Stanley Marriott. He was always around when required.

Pete will be remembered for his helpful ways, his kindness, and his cheerful word of advice.

To his wife and family, to his sisters and their families and to his parents, the Church sends its sympathy and offers prayers for their comfort at this most distressing time.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE SOCIETY ? — continued from last month

Last month we gave you the Society's history in a nutshell! How does our Church find itself involved?

The Wednesday fellowship commenced in September for Bible Study, Prayer, Singing, etc. We decided after seeing a film strip together about Bible Society's work in Papua, New Guinea and the help they need in obtaining Bibles in their many languages, to start to support this work.

We also felt that out of a sense of our joy in fellowship and our freedom to openly read the Bible in this country we would make our giving a matter of our prayers. "The Lord loves a cheerful giver" the Bible says. So it is with real joy and pleasure that in just five meetings we send our first £40 to Bible Society. If the Lord lays it upon your heart to give to His work in this particular field. Place your gift in an envelope and mark it for "Bible Society."

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

This is a fortnightly meeting at the Vicarage open to the whole parish, do come and join us.

HERE IS A PUZZLE

Find the missing word

If the B MT put:

If the B. putting:

First correct answer to the Vicarage will receive a book token value £1.50. (Offer closes on January 30th, 1987). Winner announced in March magazine.

CHILDREN AT PLAY

In the very moments when our children should be the safest, many are at great risk while at play.

This is the conclusion of a significant number of teachers, parents, psychologists and welfare workers. And they are proclaiming a warning that must be heard to safeguard future generations.

There are many obvious dangers to the physical and emotional safety of children. This is the reason for fireguards, special car seats, vetting of T.V. watching and so on.

But there are moments of danger about which most parents are unaware. These concern the private world of children, when they are reading or playing make-believe games.

Monitoring what a child watches is possible by watching yourself. Or by reading the reviews. But the inner world of a child's reading and imaginations is not accessible to parents—few of whom are aware of the dangers that now lurk.

Once there was no need to worry. Today that has all changed. There is a barrage of children's books that include gratuitous violence, explicit sex descriptions and excursions into the twilight world of the occult.

In the same way, a growing number of fantasy games emphasise evil, horror and lawlessness. Children actually participate through their imaginations.

Throughout its growing years a child is gathering a vast collection of impressions. This influences future thought, attitude and personality. Which is why the present trend in children's books and games poses such a threat.

We have an overwhelming responsibility to ensure that the books our children read and the games they play provide them with positive guidelines for life. Instead, much that is on offer leaves behind no feeling of hope, no real commitment to good finally triumphing over evil; and with the mind soiled with sordid or depressing pictures.

Daily Mail columnist, Lynda Lee-Potter, expressed her concern this way. "Children are only what we teach them and some

television teaches that it is smart to be rebels, clever to threaten and normal to be promiscuous."

As Polly Toynbee wrote in the Guardian, "Common sense, and the national opinion polls, tell us that most people believe that repeated exposure to violence on T.V. and in the films is a bad thing. A generation brought up on a diet of violence is likely to produce more violent people."

Action to protect our children is essential, it is the least we can do for them.

Parents can make a powerful contribution simply by the choice of books and games they allow their children to have and the television they watch at home and the films they are allowed to see at the cinema.

THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

More than nineteen hundred years ago, there was a man born contrary to the laws of life. This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively; only once did he cross the boundary of the country in which he lived. He possessed neither wealth nor influence; his relatives were inconspicuous and uninfluential, and had neither training nor education. In infancy he startled a King; in childhood he puzzled doctors; in manhood, he ruled the course of nature, walking upon the waves as if they were pavements, and hushing the sea to sleep. He healed the crowds without medicines, and made no charge for his services.

He never wrote a book—yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about him. He never wrote a song—but he has furnished the theme for more songs than all the song writers combined. He never founded a college—yet all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students. He never practised medicine—yet he has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.

He never marshaled an army, drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun—yet no leader has ever had more volunteers who, under his orders, have made more rebels stack arms and surrender without firing a shot.

Every seventh day, the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way as worshipping assemblers to pay homage and respect to him. The names of the past proud Statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone, but the name of this man abounds more and more. Although time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of his crucifixion, he still lives. Herod could not kill him, Satan could not seduce him, death could not destroy him, and the grave could not hold him.

He stands forth on the highest pinnacle of Heavenly Glory—proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, feared by devils—as the living, personal Christ, our Lord and Saviour !