

# ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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**Bus Timetable for 6.30 p.m. Evening Service**

Ansley Village turn 6.00 p.m.

Birchley Heath Post Office 6.10 p.m.

Ansley Common St. John's 6.20 p.m.

Return Journey from Parish Church 7.45 p.m.

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Ansley Vicarage,  
January 1st, 1989

Our Dear Friends,

1989 begins, for many of us, with fears and uncertainties and perhaps unsurmountable difficulties created by broken relationships and unfaithfulness that the future holds no great promise. The Christian faith introduces us to a God who is healing and mending broken lives.

Let Maurice tell you his story. 'In 1980 when I was 17 and married with a ten-month-old daughter, I was arrested for burglary. While awaiting trial, I committed over 100 more burglaries and ran off to Blackpool with several thousands of pounds. I decided to live it up while I could, and stayed at the Norbreck Castle Hotel. That night, as I lay on my bed thinking about the terrible mess I had made of my life, I thought about God for the first time in many years. I had all this money and yet I was still not content. Life was meaningless—I hated it. I noticed a Bible at the bedside, I picked it up, read a verse and prayed, "God sort out my life." The next day I was arrested and taken to Strangeways. After three months on remand I was sentenced to four years' imprisonment. My wife, who was by then expecting our second child, was in court with our daughter. I don't think I'll ever forget how broken they were as I was taken back to prison. That night I wanted to finish my life. I fell asleep weeping. When morning came I knew I just had to talk to someone. I asked a prison officer for help, and he sent Ian Ferguson of the Church Army to my cell. He took me to his office, where I poured out my heart. He seemed to have something I lacked and, whatever it was, I wanted it. I told him I was concerned about my wife and family, and he offered to go and see them. He also talked about Jesus. As I was about to leave the office, he said, "Do you mind if I pray for you?" I felt very embarrassed but I agreed. He layed his hands on my head. It startled me at first, and you can imagine how I felt when he began to pray in a language I didn't understand. But as he continued, I felt a Presence that was electrifying. Suddenly, I knew God was there. Everything I'd done flashed through my mind. Then I saw Jesus, the nails piercing His hands and feet, His body covered in blood. I started to weep. Jesus just lifted His head to look at me. I will never forget the love I saw in those eyes. The tears continued to roll down my face, and I saw a door where Jesus was knocking. I opened that door to Him, and He came to me. A tremendous peace came to me. I felt a new man.'

Why not give the Lord your life too, with all its problems?

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

#### DIARY FOR JANUARY 1989

**Sunday, January 1st — First Sunday after Christmas**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer — this year's Motto.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer — this year's Motto.



**Friday, January 6th**

6.30 p.m. Parish Party at St. John's, Ansley Common with members of the Ley Group.

**Sunday, January 8th — Epiphany 1**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, Great Characters of the Bible —  
**Abram.**

**Tuesday, January 10th**

3.00 p.m. St. John's and St. Laurence Mothers' Union, Ansley Village Church Hall,

**Friday, January 13th**

6.45 p.m. Prayer time in Church,

**Sunday, January 15th — Epiphany 2**

11.00 a.m. Family Service,

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion, Great Characters of the Bible —  
**Moses.**

**Wednesday, January 18th**

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship at the Vicarage.

**Friday, January 20th**

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

**Sunday, January 22nd — Third before Lent**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, Great Characters of the Bible —  
**Joshua.**

**Monday, January 23rd**

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

**Sunday, January 29th — Second before Lent**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, Great Characters of the Bible —  
**Samson.**

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**On December 6th** the funeral of Mrs. Janet Mary O'Neil took place at Nuneaton Crematorium. The Chapel was inadequate to accommodate the very many who gathered to pay their respects to a popular lady so tragically killed in a road accident. The following Sunday the family were remembered in prayer, particularly Eddie the bereaved husband, that God will strengthen them in their loss.

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If, when passing through on a walk or visiting a grave, you bring a dog into the Church grounds: please be kind enough to keep it on a lead. Several people have recently commented on the unpleasantness of the frequent fouling of the paths and large grass areas. It is a pity to spoil the hard work so many put in to make the grounds look neat and tidy.

### **ANSLEY LADIES' ASSOCIATION**

At our Annual Christmas Party a cheque for £100 was presented to Mr. John Arwood from the Diabetic Support Group for the George Eliot Hospital Children's Dept.

Next meeting January 11th, Speaker: Nancy Savage, Photographer (Horace Dudley), January 25th Cheese and Wine Evening.

### **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Baby  
"They brought children for Jesus to bless"

December 11—Peter Thomas Allton of Hood Lane Farm.

#### **Baptism**

"I repent of my sins"

December 4—Stephen Frederick Antill of Hurley Common.

#### **Funerals**

"When all of life is over and our work on earth is done"

December 1—Albert Edgar Taylor, 85 years, formerly of Birchley Heath.

December 5—Jane Williams Robinson, 67 years of Ansley Village.

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**Friday, January 6th** is our Parish Party at St. John's, Ansley Common, commencing at 6.30 p.m. for all ages. It is the day of the Epiphany so we shall commence with a time of Worship; then we shall eat. Please bring some food to contribute to the table. Games will follow: John Law's parish will organise some and so will Peter Phillip's group from Arley. We look forward to an enjoyable evening.

**Church Urban Fund.** There will be a retiring offering for this fund at the close of each of the Services in Church on January 1st. This fund is used for Christian work in deprived areas in the cities of our country.

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Joyce Allton looks after our Church library and here she recommends a book she has recently read.

### **BEYOND HEALING by Jennifer Rees Larcombe**

This is a true and moving story of how faith can grow stronger even when prayers are not answered in the way we want.

Jennifer was suffering from an unusual virus which attacked her nervous system leaving her severely disabled.

Despite constant prayers by many people healing did not happen to Jennifer. She even endured many days and nights of agonising pain, when her husband looked after her, their children and household chores. Eventually he had a heart attack.

Their marriage floundered but they prayed together for each other and their marriage which eased things slightly.

Finally Jennifer came to accept that God's will was not to heal her, but she realised that Jesus knew the pain she suffered and was with her through it all. This gave her strength and courage to keep on trying and to trust in God come what may.

This is an ideal book for those who are going through a time of illness, and also for those who are caring for those in long term illness. Available from the Church library.

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#### THE MESSAGE OF THE CLOCK

The little hands move on;  
The clock, it ticks away;  
And soon we see an hour gone,  
An hour, and then a day.  
And weeks they pass along,  
And months make up a year;  
No sooner come, than it has flown.  
There's nothing lasting here.

So let us set our heart  
On everlasting things,  
For all that's earthly will depart,  
And fly on time's fast wing,  
'Tis time to seek the Lord,  
And at His feet to bow;  
Obey the counsel of His Word,  
'Tis time to seek it now.

Render Him service true  
And build upon the rock,  
Live with Eternity in view  
The message of the clock,  
To live, to serve, to love,  
Until on that blest shore  
We join the ransomed hosts above  
Where time shall be no more.

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Heather Sinclair, who was captured by the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army, is back in Africa. She has been seconded by Tear Fund to the Swaziland Conference of Churches, along with another nurse, Nicki Sullivan, to establish a primary health care programme in Manzini, in the centre of the country. Pray for Heather and Nicki. Num. 6 : 24-26.

"Many people who get divorced don't find anything better and really wish they hadn't . . . I think this whole thing of racing off to get divorced at the first snag you hit seems pathetic," said Tina Brown, Editor of Vanity Fair. Pray for couples who are contemplating splitting up to re-commit themselves to each other and to working through the problems rather than walking out on them. 1 Cor. 7 : 27.