

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 775

JANUARY 1990

Price 13p



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Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

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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, 1990

Our Dear Friends,

We at the Vicarage pray that you will all have a very happy new year. Thank you to the many who sent us Christmas greetings. We appreciate very much that token of kindness.

Thirty years ago this coming September our parish welcomed a team of Church Army people to conduct a series of meetings for a period of ten days. I was on that team, so was Terry Waite and several others. Now the Parochial Church Council have decided that it is time we had another such visit, and that will once again take place in September; the dates are from the 16th to the 30th.

It is necessary from time to time to ask ourselves some personal questions and to allow ourselves to be put under God's searchlight. Someone once rightly said that the unexamined life is not worth living.

The story is told of a gang leader who was dared to go into Milan Cathedral, make up the most startling confessions and take whatever penance the priest suggested. The lad took on the dare and the old priest told him to kneel before the Crucifix and say, 'You died for me and I don't care a damn.' So he knelt down and said, 'You died for me and —' but he discovered that he couldn't look into the model of the face of Christ and end the sentence that way. The Archbishop of Milan ends the account like this; 'I know the story's true, because I was that gang leader.'

Recently a Muslim soldier from Tanzania looted a bookshop in Uganda. He returned to his barracks with a large stock of books of various titles and offered his friend a choice of books from the loot. Thomas Nzirambi selected a Bible. Thomas had served in the Ugandan army for eight years as a musician. His attitude and conduct led him into all kinds of places, into deep sin and far from his Christian upbringing. Thomas opened the Bible at Ecclesiastes 11 v 9. "Young people, enjoy your youth, be happy while you are still young. Do what you want to do and follow your hearts desire. But remember that God is going to judge you for whatever you do." This verse hit Thomas with great impact. He felt a personal condemnation, repented and put the whole of his past into the hands of Jesus Christ and experienced the beginnings of a new life.

A similar personal experience brought from the pen of C. S. Lewis a book entitled, 'Surprised by Joy.' And that just about sums it up. Why not make such a goal your aim for 1990?

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR JANUARY 1990

Tuesday, January 2nd

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Friday, January 5th

7.00 p.m. Parish Christmas Party in Ansley Village Church Hall.

Sunday, January 7th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer, "Parish Motto 1990"

6.30 p.m. 1662 Formal Evening Prayer, **Philippians 4 v 13.**

Wednesday, January 10th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies' Association.

Friday, January 12th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer.

Sunday, January 14th

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "**GOD UNCHANGING**"

Monday, January 15th

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

Wednesday, January 17th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Friday, January 19th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer.

Sunday, January 21st

11.00 a.m. Family Worship.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion. Theme: "The Majesty of God"

Wednesday, January 24th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies' Association.

Friday, January 26th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer.

Sunday, January 28th

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. Theme: "God Only Wise"

Wednesday, January 31st

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Thank you once again to all those who have supported the Children's Society in the last twelve months. The money is much needed to improve the lives of children in our country less fortunate than our own.

The box total this year so far is £114,71. The Great Cake Bake in June raised £49 and the Bring and Buy Coffee Evening in February this year realised £66.

Thank you all once again.

Margaret Oliver.

ELECTORAL ROLL 1990

This month preparation will begin for the formation of a new electoral roll. The old roll, drawn up in 1984, is destroyed and a new electoral roll is made in every parish Church before the Annual General Meeting; which in our parish usually takes place in March. At the December meeting of the P.C.C. Marcia Sutton was elected electoral roll officer, and Margaret Antill as deputy.

The electoral roll is the foundation of the whole structure of Synodical government in the Church. The people on the electoral roll are eligible to:—

- 1—Elect the new P.C.C. every year.
- 2—Elect the new Deanery Synod representatives every three years.

To qualify for membership of the electoral roll a person has to be:—

- (a) A member of the Church of England or a denomination in fellowship with the Established Church;
- (b) baptised into the Christian Faith;
- (c) at least 16 years of age or over;
- (d) a resident of the parish (or if not a resident, has regularly attended public worship in the Church for six months;
- (e) has signed an electoral roll application form.

The rules state that a person's name may be removed if they have ceased to reside in the parish, unless they continue to attend public worship in the parish habitually except prevented by illness.

A prayer list will be made of people on the electoral roll. All who would like to use that list to pray for parishioners will be able to receive a copy.

It is understood that all who wish to be on the electoral roll will feel a moral obligation to be—(1) an active supporter of the Parish Church by attendance at public worship.

(2) A weekly subscriber to the Free-Will Offering Scheme; and/or, if eligible, to give to the Church through the Covenant Scheme; which enables the Church to receive 30% extra through the Government's Charity Scheme.

Please apply for an application form from the Officers.

The amount of Diocesan expenses apportioned to this parish is assessed mainly on membership of the electoral roll. If that membership does not reflect accurately the number of **actual** worshippers our expenses become higher than we can afford. Membership therefore, as far as is possible, needs to be an honest one.

JANUARY'S PRAYER DIARY

SUNDAY—"Remember to keep Holy the Sabbath day." Pray for our life together as a Church family and for all our Sunday services.

MONDAY—"They brought to Jesus all who were sick and infirm and He healed them." Pray for the sick, handicapped and elderly people of our Parish that Jesus will be their constant companion.

TUESDAY—Jesus said, "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with Power." Pray for all our outreach into the community that many may receive Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

WEDNESDAY—Jesus said "Let the children come to me and do not stop them because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Pray for the children of our Church family, Pathfinders, Explorers, Climbers and babies and Mothers and toddlers group also St. John's Explorers and all leaders.

THURSDAY—Jesus said, "I was hungry and you fed me." Pray that we will all feel generous in helping to feed the Ethiopians. Tear fund is linked to Kale Heywet Church and has made a grant of £640,000 immediately.

FRIDAY—"They listened to the message with great eagerness and every day they studied the Scriptures." Praise the Lord for the Bible and the freedom to read it, the notes that help to explain, and the fellowship we enjoy as we share together.

SATURDAY—"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all to the Glory of God," Commit to the Lord all your hobbies and leisure time pursuits, that in the books we read, the programmes we watch, the places we go and the friends we make we may GLORIFY OUR GOD.

TRY THE NEW YEAR RECIPE !

- 1 Tongue that does not slander.
- 1 Mind full of tolerance.
- 2 Ears closed to gossip.
- 2 Eyes overlooking others faults.
- 1 Heart generous and kind.
- 2 Hands extended to help others.
- 1 Dash of wit, smiles, sunny disposition and cheerfulness.

Method:

Blend together the above ingredients.
Form into one being.
Serve generous portions to everyone you meet !

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

"Giving them the help they need by prayer, teaching and example"

Dec. 10—Fiona Kay Robinson of Ansley Village.

Funeral

"I am the Resurrection and the Life," says the Lord.

Dec. 15—Nellie Florence Varney, aged 85 years of Ansley Village.