

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

Parish including Birchley Heath, Ansley Common,
Ansley Village, Church End.

No. 811

JANUARY 1993

Price 13p



Vicar:

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Sunday Bus Timetable for 6.30 p.m. Evening Service

Ansley Village turn 6.00 p.m.

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

Return Journey from Parish Church 7.45 p.m.

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel.: (0203) 382902

1st January, 1993

Our Dear Friends,

William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, once said, "It is impossible to change the future without disturbing the present."

Changing! Making changes! Willingness to change! Some people think that God never changes. That He is totally unchangeable, something like an Egyptian pyramid. It stood there, stands there and will continue to stand there for ages, never changing, always the same. They feel and think that God is like that, and that because He doesn't change, we shouldn't change either.

But don't we mean that God is unchanging in His character, that He is always righteous, never has moods, never weakens in His favour? God's attitude to sin is the same today as when He expelled Adam from the Garden of Eden. God's attitude towards the sinner is today the same as when Jesus stretched forth His hands and said, "Come to Me all you that labour and are stressed and I will give you rest." He never compromises and cannot be influenced.

However, one of these aspects of His being the same always is that He enjoys doing "new things." The Bible speaks about a "new creation," a new commandment, "a new covenant," "a new heaven," "a new earth," and all these things are part of God's desire, God's work and His pleasure.

In 1662 a new prayer book was introduced, we still use it today, but then it caused considerable consternation resulting in over 2000 ministers leaving the church.

In 1750 when Charles Wesley's hymns we first sung, we still sing them today, there were loud noises of disapproval.

Our own Church building changed when the Sanctuary was extended in the 18th century, and again this century when the north aisle was built and the gallery removed.

If we don't believe in change—we should look in the mirror! If we don't change, we die! Changes are difficult for many of us, as most of us are fairly traditional, and maybe we think unconsciously that change conveys the unwritten unintentional message that we haven't done it right in the past. This is not so of course. When we walk in the light that we have at any given time we are doing it right, and God can lead us into different, greater things.

Let's be open to change, let's be teachable and accept that we haven't arrived yet. If we are open to the Lord for His guidance we are assured that He will guide us assuredly and definitely.

This New Year will inevitably see changes for all of us, some of them can be exciting with our hand of faith in God's hand.

"Look!" says God, "I will do a new thing." Isaiah 43 19.

A Happy New Year,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR JANUARY 1993

Sunday, January 3rd

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer A.S.B. Theme: "Deuteronomy 31 8."
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer 1662. Theme: "Motto for 1993."

Tuesday, January 5th

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union Meeting.

Wednesday, January 6th

- 8.00 p.m. Ladies' Club. Social Evening.

Friday, January 8th

- 7.00 p.m. Parish Christmas Party at St. John's.

Sunday, January 10th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. Subject: "Places and People."

Tuesday, January 12th

- Slides by Mr. & Mrs. Onions in the Hall.

Wednesday, January 13th

- 8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Thursday, January 14th

- 7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting at St. John's, Ansley Common.

Friday, January 15th

- 6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, January 17th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

Wednesday, January 20th

- 8.00 p.m. Ladies' Club.

Friday, January 22nd

- 6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, January 24th

- 10.00 a.m. Family Service, St. John's.
- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Service, "Will we recognise our loved ones in heaven?"

Wednesday, January 27th

- 8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Friday, January 29th

- 6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, January 31st

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Guest Service.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism "Encouraged by parents prayers, teaching and example"

Sunday, December 13th—Sian Leanne Corbett and Sarah Jane Corbett of Ansley Village.

A LETTER FROM OUR DIOCESAN BISHOP

Dear Friends,

75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIOCESE OF COVENTRY

You will know that we are marking our Anniversary in 1993, I am sure you are as excited as I am at what promises to be a very special year in the life of our Diocese. Celebrations are good for us!

So I want to invite you and the members of your congregation(s) to share in the Diocesan Celebration Event to be held at the RASE Showground at Stoneleigh on Sunday, 19th September, 1993. This will be our opportunity to share together in thanking God for His hand upon the Life of His Church in this area, and to pledge ourselves afresh to His service.

Plans are already well in hand. The Celebration will have a number of constituent parts, rather like the celebration of a marriage, with a service followed by other accompanying events.

In our case the service at 11.15 a.m., will be a Diocesan Eucharist. I shall Preside, and I am delighted that the Archbishop of Canterbury has agreed to preach. All who come will be asked to be in the Showground by 10.45 a.m. After the service, a picnic lunch together, and a series of other informal celebratory events will follow. The day's celebrations will end at around 3.00 p.m.

Full details will be sent to you in due course. But I do want to ask you to make a special place for this date in your 1993 parish programme. My fervent hope is that all members of the diocesan family, of all ages, will share in this occasion. I can promise that there will be something for everyone.

Certainly I feel it to be of such importance that I am granting my dispensation for the suspension of your normal church services, at least in the morning, on that day.

Come and make this a truly memorable day. Please spread the message and begin to work out how you and members of your congregation(s) will get to Stoneleigh. It is not too early to begin to make arrangements.

I do hope that you will do all you can to get as many people to share with you in this Celebration as possible, and let's make it as memorable as we can!

Yours in Christ,
Simon

Parish Christmas Party will be held at St. John's, Ansley Common on Friday, January 8th commencing at 7.00 p.m. A list of food items will be circulating, please add your name to the items of food you choose to bring. Also, if you have a game you could organise, do let us know, so that it can be included in the evening's entertainment.

Guest Night Service will be on the fifth Sunday night this month at 6.30 p.m. Please place your choice of hymn in the suggestion box on the literature table.

The Parochial Church Council meets on Thursday, January 14th at 7.45 p.m., at St. John's, Ansley Common. Being the first meeting of the New Year will be especially important.

The Mothers' Union Christmas Party was a huge success. Thank you to all the ladies (and gentlemen) who helped in so many ways. It was good to see many guests; and especially enjoyable in the home of Mrs. Olive Varden who gave us all a warm welcome.

A great deal of time and work was spent preparing for the Christmas Fayre held last month, specially in wreath making. Thank you so much for all who helped make this event worthwhile and for putting so much labour of love into the occasion. The financial result so far is £350.

A Note from Margaret Antill. The free-will offering envelopes for 1993 are now in Church, please take yours. Any one else wishing to participate in this scheme—which ensures that the Church funds do not miss out, even if you miss a week—should please take a blank set and add your name to the list on the table. Thank you.

PREACHER'S TIMELY SUNDAY MESSAGE SAVES THE BACON

When the Rev. David Prior rose to preach at St. Michael's, Chester Square last Sunday, his topic was St. Paul's advice to the Corinthians on meat offered to idols (I Corinthians 8) and he began talking about the tradition of the Sunday roast.

"In our household, even in the hottest time in South Africa, we've always, at my insistence, stuck with that tradition."

Then he added jocularly: "Now, if any of you have by chance forgotten to put yours on, now is the time to go and do it."

Immediately a woman listener let out a little gasp, rose, and headed red-faced for the back of the building. Soon laughter rippled through the whole congregation, and for a fleeting moment the preacher was lost for words. "Did you forget to put it on, Honey?" he asked his retreating wife, Rosemary.

Thereafter some of his hearers were keeping half an eye on their watches to see if the preacher would give his family roast a bit of extra time in the oven.

The combination of David Prior's expository preaching and various impromptu add-ons sometimes keeps morning worshippers a bit later than the average Anglican parish.

We have some Good News Bibles available to be purchased for use at public worship in our Church only. These Bibles are selling at a special price of £5 each. Please let me know if you would like to buy one of these Bibles to give to the Church in Memory of a loved one, or to commemorate a Baptism or a Marriage. Each Bible will be suitably inscribed on the inside cover.