

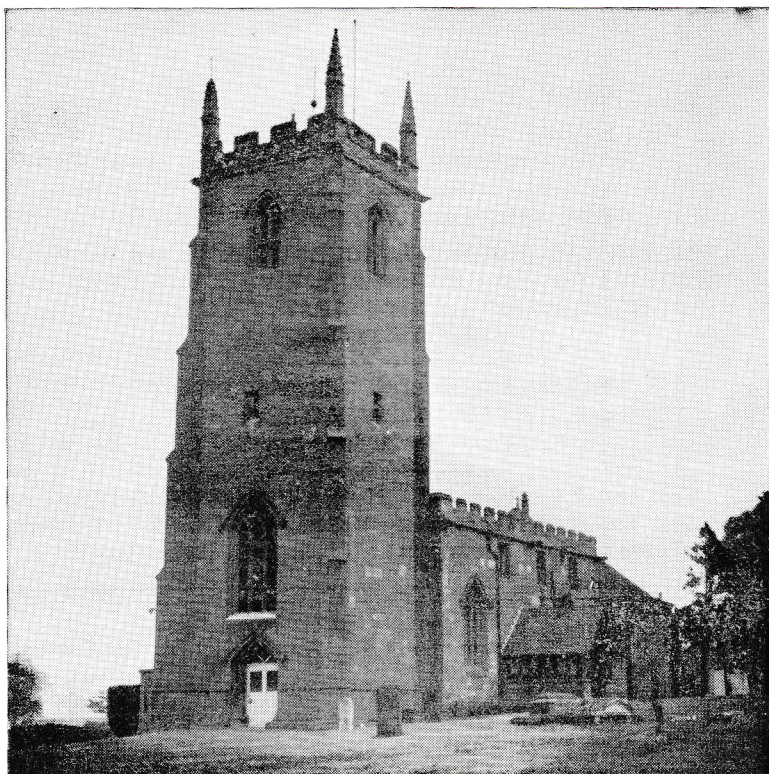
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 823

JANUARY 1994

Price 20p



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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.

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Ansley Vicarage,

January 1st, 1994

Our Dear Friends,

Today we begin a New Year. Wouldn't we like Britain to be new? John Major said, "We must get back to basics because we are in danger of losing our way." Many are in despair, seeing the direction in which our country is going.

A little girl once got lost in a big city. She asked a stranger to help her find the way home. The stranger asked her for her home address, but the little girl said she didn't know it. He then asked for her phone number, and again the little girl said she didn't know it. "But how can I help you home without your address or phone number?" asked the stranger. The little girl thought for a while, then she said, "Do you know that big building with a cross on top?" She was referring to a prominent landmark in the city.

"Yes," he said, "I do." "Well," said the little girl, "if you can get me to the cross I can find my way home."

It is the growing conviction of many in our land that this is what must happen among all the people of Britain. We have got to get to the cross; then there will be a transformation in our society.

The conditions for allied prisoners in the Japanese camp on the River Kwai were so abysmal and mortality so high that the men became almost animal-like in their selfishness. They did not shrink from stealing food from their dying mates in a desperate attempt to survive. Ernest Gordon was amongst those given up as incurable but was nursed back to life by the devoted self-sacrifice of a man called Dusty Miller. The transformation of attitudes in that camp, as men in it began to understand and respond to the love of Christ, was miraculous.

How did the cross get through to men in such desperate conditions? It started with Angus McGilvray who gave his life for his friend. The friend was very ill and about to die. Someone had stolen his blanket. Angus gave him his own. Someone had stolen his food, Angus gave him his own. The result was that Angus's friend got better. But Angus collapsed one day from starvation and exhaustion; he fell and died.

The story spread around the camp like wildfire. The men recalled the words of Jesus: 'Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend.' They understood the cross of Jesus where He gave His life that even His enemies might live.

Gradually throughout that camp men came to hand over their lives to Jesus. They had seen in Angus genuine unselfish, sacrificial love.

Britain finding its way to that cross will create a transformed society.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY

Sunday, January 2nd

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer, A.S.B. "Verse of the Year."
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, B.C.P. "Verse of the Year."

Wednesday, January 5th

- 8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Thursday, January 6th — Epiphany

- 7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council in Ansley Village Church Hall.

Friday, January 7th

- 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Day of Prayer.

Sunday, January 9th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Wednesday, January 12th

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Sunday, January 16th

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

Wednesday, January 19th

- 8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Sunday, January 23rd

- 10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.
- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, A.S.B.

Wednesday, January 26th

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Sunday, January 30th

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

Meetings for Prayer in Church each Friday at 6.45 p.m.

With the passing away of Annis Moore the church has lost a very prominent lady. Although she was of a quiet, retiring nature, wanting to keep out of the lime-light; her gifts brought her to the fore-front and she quickly became invaluable to the witness in the Church. For over 25 years she has written the titles for each flower display in her unique artistic style. She has made those long heavy curtains that hang at the west-end and also the lovely Communion Table frontal, pulpit and lectern falls. She was always in the Choir; consistent, reliable, and regular. We will all miss Annis but not more so than Sid, whom we thank for bringing her from Sheffield. Our prayer is that God will sustain him in his loss; strengthen and support him as also we pray for Ann and John. That they will know God's grace to help in this time of need.

Nursery Hill First School. Next term some of the 7 and 8 year old children will be looking at the 1960's for their history topic. They would like to hear from anybody who would be willing to lend photographs of activities (or of buildings, etc.) taken in Ansley Common during that time. (Has anybody got a photograph of the outside of the old Church—or of the Colliery taken just after closure? etc.)

They would also welcome the loan of any other items of interest from that era (records, local maps, clothes, etc.)

If there is anyone who would like to talk to the children about Ansley Common and its life in general in the 1960's, or more specifically about school life at that time, please contact Mrs. Drinkwater at the school. (Tel.: 392318).

Bob Oldroyd, who died on the first of December, came from Co. Durham forty years ago. He worked at Arley pit and quickly settled into the community here. He was Secretary of Ansley Social Club; Chairman of the Parish Council; a Justice of the Peace; a Borough Councillor; a School Governor; a Vice-President of Dawmill Band; and many more things too, which indicates the extent to which he entered into public life. He rendered service to the community in a commendable way; helping people with their housing problems and in other practical ways. He will be greatly missed both in the local community, and also in the wider area. We pray for his wife Doreen and the family that they will come to know the love of Christ.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals 'I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless.'

Dec. 1—Robert Oldroyd, 68 years, of Ansley Village.

Dec. 17—Annis Nellie Moore, 78 years, of Ansley Village.

Peter & Lyndy Valentine write to us all about their missionary work in Temuco, Chile with the South American Missionary Society:

"Looking back at 1993 it can be measured by the ups and the downs, moments of joy and confidence alongside moments of sadness and frustration. Above all though we remain firm in the belief that we are where God wants us to be.

"Luke, Hannah and Sarah have all grown and progressed in their development.

"Work both at the deaf school and with the church has increased considerably. There has been many major developments at the school as we put together the final touches to the programme of vocational training. We are now at the stage of presenting the project to various funds for financial help—the majority of which are Chilean. Keep watching this space!

"Lyndy has also been helping at the school during this last term. We put together a series of workshops for the teenage students on the changes that are happening to their bodies, physical and sexual. Though the subject is very serious and important we tried to keep the atmosphere as lighthearted and relaxed as possible.

"We love to hear your news and your thoughts and to be in regular contact with you.

Yours with love in Jesus,

Peter & Lyndy"

Ansley Ladies meet on January 5th and January 19th. Speakers to be arranged and to everyone a happy new year. W. Ponder.

Ansley Mothers' Union. Thank you Mrs. Varden for opening your home for the Christmas Party which was enjoyed by everyone.

There will be no meeting in January but I would like to wish all members a happy new year. W. Ponder.

So many people worked together to make the Christmas Fayre worthwhile last month. The total amount is not yet in, but it is well over £500. We are most grateful for the team spirit that energised many to make such a valuable effort and contribution for the occasion. Approximately fifty Christmas wreaths were sold. Thank you all so much.

As we mentioned in the November magazine, the price goes up to 20p with this issue. In comparison to most Church magazines, ours is still cheap. We trust that the increase will not reduce the sale circulation. It will be appreciated if you can pay £2.20 in advance. In so doing, you will have one copy free.

The Day of Prayer means that the Church will be open from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., on Friday, 7th January for prayer. There will be a rota, to which people may add their names if desired. There will be one or more people there all the time.

There are five Sundays in January, and, as usual, on the fifth Sunday, we shall have an informal service. If you have a favourite hymn please write it down and place your choice in the suggestion box or hand it to one of the Wardens.

Children's Society. Martin & Margaret Oliver opened their home one evening in November to receive the Church of England Children's Society Boxes for opening. Refreshments were served and there was a gift stall. All held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Margaret writes in response, "Thank you once again for your generosity. £181.32 has been forwarded to help children in our country to live a healthier, happier and more contented life. Thank you for your support." Margaret Oliver. And thanks to Martin and Margaret too.

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service writes to ask for volunteers to help with "Meals on Wheels." This service usually operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays and maybe on other days too. Helpers are only called upon to do one, or at most two sessions per month. A mileage allowance is paid for people using their own cars. The usual length of time required is from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. The need becomes greater during the winter months because volunteers are retired people themselves and tend to fall ill. Telephone: 0926 491358.