

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 835

JANUARY 1995

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,
1st January, 1995

Our Dear Friends,

New beginnings, that's what a New Year offers to us. We turn over on to a clean page and begin again. Begin with new hopes, new ideals, new vision, a fresh commitment to what we know is right, pure, and good. We begin with the hand of faith placed into the hands of God. Surrendering to Him and praying that He will lead us onwards so making us aware of our responsibilities. The responsibilities that are given to every Christian Community in every place, and that is the responsibility to build.

Working with God to build His Kingdom, so that the Kingdom of God progressively spreads as more and more people respond to the overwhelming love of the Sovereign Lord.

Many of us also have in mind another type of building and that is the modernising of the toilet at Church End to include a small kitchen and room. This is a good ambition not only to meet present needs but also to provide facilities acceptable for those who will follow us into the next century.

The Parish's centre of worship happens to be at Church End and since the main aim of our activities is the worship of God, that centre ought to meet all our practical needs, making it useful and agreeable to all who choose to come.

So, how do we go about it? As with any project that is worthwhile we should first get our priorities right. The pre-condition of that must surely be openness to God and a willingness to accept all that God wants to do among us. At the heart of this is prayer. Not our usual form of 'lip service' to prayer, ritualized and Church based—but the kind of praying based upon the conviction that the God of the Bible is active today. Modern secular living has weakened many a Christian's belief in the power of God to work amongst and through His people and that has to be challenged by bold believing prayer which expects the unexpected.

As we become more open to God, I believe He will lead us forward at His pace. The prayer days and our Friday meetings for prayer should have the highest profile in our life together. God can then do His work amongst us as we begin to see things His way.

A small boy sat on the quayside, dipping his toes into the cool, refreshing sea. Beside him sat an old weather-beaten cornish sailor.

"What is the wind?" asked the boy suddenly. There was a long pause while the two sat watching the breeze ruffle the water.

"I don't know," answered the old sailor at last, "I can't tell you what the wind is. But I know how to hoist a sail."

"How does prayer work? some people ask, to which I, along with many others, would reply, "I don't know, I only know that it does!"

As you put your 'verse of the year' card on your wall (you will need blue-tack or sellotape) read the verse again, "You Lord will show me the path," etc., and let us be the people who look out for His answer.

Happy New Year,
James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR JANUARY 1995

Sunday, January 1st

- 8.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer A.S.B. 1980.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer B.C.P. 1662.

Thursday, January 5th

- 6.30 p.m. New Year Party.

Sunday, January 8th

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

Tuesday, January 10th

- 6.00 p.m. "Youth for Christ" team with the Children.

Wednesday, January 11th

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Sunday, January 15th

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

Sunday, January 22nd

- 9.45 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. 1980.

Tuesday, January 24th

- 6.00 p.m. "Youth for Christ" team with the Children.

Wednesday, January 25th

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Sunday, January 29th

- 10.30 a.m. The Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. "Your Favourite Hymns."

Every Tuesday

- 7.30 p.m. Youth Club, Village Church Hall.

Every Thursday

- 10.30 a.m. Mums & Toddlers, Village Church Hall.
- 6.30 p.m. Explorers at St. John's Hall, Ansley Common.

Every Friday

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funeral "Suffer little children to come to Me"

Dec. 9—Sophia Frances Ray, still-born, of Charity Farm.

Pause for thought day is being planned for mid-March. Mrs. Helen Lee has agreed to come to be our speaker. She last came in 1989 and was very much appreciated for her ministry to us. Next month's magazine will include more details when the date is finalised.

Dine by Wheels, held last month, was a great success. There was approximately seventy customers, visiting ten homes. The hostesses made marvellous meals, of which there were four courses, ably assisted by the nobs—who were mainly responsible for the washing up! Punch was served at the Village Hall together with instructions and a map at the commencement of the evening. At the conclusion, an enthusiastic crowd of diners gathered at the hall for coffee, cheese and biscuits. Very many thanks to all who took part, the cooks and customers. A very special thanks to David Morley who organised the whole event and whose idea it was. It resulted in

bringing in approximately £750 towards the new room project. "Let's do it again," they all said; and perhaps we may.

Christmas Bazaar made a profit of over £450 towards the costs of maintenance of the Village Church Hall. Thank you to all who worked so hard for that, particular thanks to those who spent many hours making Christmas wreaths. This item is becoming so worthwhile as customers appreciate the high standard of the wreaths.

The Acorn Pregnancy Counselling Centre at 1a Bond Gate, Nuneaton is the latest project of the Sycamore Tree Counselling Service and Bookshop. It is planned to open this month. There will be some 'open days' for interested friends to come to see the centre, meet the team and find out all about the project. There is a rent of £220 per month for them to find and our P.C.C. have agreed that a retiring offering should take place after each service on the second Sunday in the first three months of this year, namely January 8th, February 12th and March 12th. They conclude their letter with: "Our hearts desire is to serve God and women in crisis whether due to an unplanned pregnancy, past abortion or miscarriage."

The following poem was composed by Marie for the Flower Festival theme last year.

THE WATER OF LIFE

GOD made the moon, the stars, the sun
He gave water of life to everyone.
The seas and oceans of azure blue,
For pleasure, for travel, for me and you.
He made the rivers meandering by
The ripping streams with banks to lie.
He gave us wells of water pure,
Refreshing rain and more and more.
God made the water of life galore,
Enough for all the earth and more.
But man has ravished God's wondrous land,
Changing it's green to burning sand.
We accept His gifts refreshing and pure,
As the rain He sends plenteous and sure,
We forget those lands now bleak and bare,
Where water is precious and very rare.
The rivers of dust so stark and bare,
No refreshing rain or water there,
Crops are wilted in earth's deep cracks,
It's the water of life this land now lacks.
God gave us plenty to refresh this earth.
God made us all of equal worth,
He offers His water of life today,
For us to accept and share along our way.

Marie Cove.

Your Favourite Hymn! is your opportunity to make your choice of hymns to be sung at the informal evening service at 6.30 p.m. on the fifth Sunday of this month, that is January 29th. Place your choice in the 'suggestion box' or give it to one of our Wardens.

Our Parochial Church Council meeting this month is at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday, January 19th in Ansley Village Church Hall. Notice of items for the agenda should reach the Chairman at least three days before the meeting.

Church Family Party. An invitation to all of us to come to the party on Thursday, January 5th at 6.30 p.m. at St. John's Church Hall, Ansley Common. A food list will be in circulation. Please add your name to the items of food you can bring and a game you can organise.

This is a special 'Thank you' to the so many in the parish who have kindly sent us Christmas greetings cards. We do appreciate that expression of kindness to us.

Blessed are those who are blameless who walk in the way of the Lord.

JESUS' FEET

New feet, small feet, perfect feet, wrapped in warm clothes to keep out the cold. Feet that are tickled, kissed, played with by a loving mother. Just like your mother did to me. Just like we did to our own babies.

Young feet, running to play, to go and watch father working his wood, to see mother working in the home, searching for her to kiss better the small childhood hurts, walking to school, climbing the hills, splashing in pools and streams, going to the temple, to the synagogue; feet that still had time to stop, to stare, to pray, always walking closer to God than you or I.

Feet free from sin, baptised in the waters of the Jordan. Dusty feet, hot feet, bruised feet, toughened by walking alone with God in the desert.

Happy feet, joyful feet, dancing feet, did Jesus dance at the wedding in Cana?

Feet washed and anointed by tears, dried with love.

Feet that bring healing, feet that bring forgiveness; feet that walk beside the lonely, feet that sit with sinners, feet that lead us in prayer, feet that bring us selfless love, feet that show us the way to salvation, feet that were willing to walk the road to Golgotha, feet that were willing to be stretched out, to be pierced by cruel nails, feet that went willingly to die that we might live.

Judith Wilson.

In a morally decaying world, Christians are needed more than ever to be in influential positions. In business, finance, industry, medical and caring professions, the media, entertainment and arts. Pray that God will move in revival power within our nation.

Churches in Cuba are growing rapidly. One Church had baptised 50 new believers within a few weeks, while nearly 1,000 students were enrolled at another church's Bible College. The demand for Bibles is so great that worn-out ones are carefully restored. Living conditions are hard for most Cubans. Pray for the work in Cuba.