

# ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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The Vicar would like to hear of cases of sickness. Please send messages to the Vicarage.

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Ansley Vicarage,  
February 1st, 1988

Our Dear Friends,

Any gardener knows that garden weeds cause damage and need constant pulling up any time of the year including springtime.

Lent is an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning springtime, and springtime is the time when things grow, bad weeds as well as good plants.

The Bible warns us against a damaging weed called the weed of resentment with its bitter root. "Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble." Hebrews 12.15. Then there is the weed of unbelief with its fatal root. Bitter, hard, angry, and irritated people can miss the grace of God and be excluded from the presence of the Lord. What terrible consequences from letting these weeds grow among us.

Many doctors would say that the poisonous emotions of bitterness and resentment can cause physical pain and suffering too.

The weedkiller for this vicious root is forgiveness, gallons and gallons of it (look up Ephesians 4 31-34 for example).

Forgiveness is not easy. Asking for forgiveness from someone and giving forgiveness to someone can be quite painful. The harsh realities of life give all of us the opportunity to experience this if we are courageous enough to accept the challenge. But it's easier to get angry, critical or bitter, and to keep someone at arms length than it is to sort out wrong relationships. Just as you have to squeeze an orange to extract its juice, or crush a flower to release its fragrance; so it is through the pressures and hurts in our relationships that the love of Jesus can be shown—provided we learn to forgive. We do not forget that Lent includes Good Friday when the Lord was crushed on the cross in order to make forgiveness from God a possibility.

In these present days many Christian people are asking themselves at least four personal questions. The first is, am I an honest person, do I always tell the truth? It is easy to be loose with the truth and less than honest. The second is, have I been impure? The question of purity is basic if this link in a chain of virtues is weak or broken, the character is marred. The third question is, have I allowed bitterness to take root in my life? Of all the things that choke and poison the personality, bitterness is probably the most devastatingly effective. The fourth; is love the motive behind all my actions? Romans 13.9 says, "If you love your neighbour, you will not want to harm or cheat him," and 1 Corinthians 14.1 says, "Let love be your greatest aim."

Our reaction to failure should not be despair but an honest prayer for forgiveness in a genuine spirit of repentance.

We do not have to wait for Lent to do a bit of self searching but since that is the present season in our calendar we shall be easier to live with if we take advantage of it.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.



## CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 1988

### Friday, February 5th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer at the Church.

### Sunday, February 7th — Sexagesima

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Magnificat"

### Wednesday, February 10th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship meets at the Vicarage.

### Friday, February 12th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer at the Church.

### Sunday, February 14th

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Informal Service for Valentine's Day.

"The two shall be one"

### Ash Wednesday, February 17th

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

7.00 p.m. Service for Ash Wednesday at St. John's, Ansley Common.

### Friday, February 19th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer at the Church.

### Sunday, February 21st — Lent 1

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion. "Christ is our Peace"

### Wednesday, February 24th

7.30 p.m. Lent Service at Arley.

### Friday, February 26th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer at the Church.

### Sunday, February 28th

10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Christian Certainty"

The season of Lent commences with a service in Church on Ash Wednesday morning. In the evening at St. John's there will be an informal service beginning at 7.00 p.m., with the sound-strip about the Church Army at work. Tea will then be served and this will be followed by the film-strip "The Life of Christ."

Our first United Lent Meeting will be at Arley on Wednesday, February 24th at 7.30 p.m., asking the question, 'how do we see people?' Wednesday, March 2nd at Ansley Village Church Hall looking at, 'relationships in the family.' Wednesday, March 9th at Fillongley asking the question, 'who belongs and who doesn't?' Wednesday, March 16th at Corley looking at, 'relationships in the community and the world.' Wednesday, March 23rd at Ansley Common, 'what has changed in the way we see things?'

## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The grand total collected in the boxes last year was £164.86. Thank you very much to all who gave so generously.

The money helps in many ways, keeping children in a family environment wherever possible. It helps older children become

more independent and encourages those who may be handicapped to live as normal a life as possible. Children who may have been tempted towards crime are guided and directed to a more useful way of life. Thank you for your generosity. Margaret Oliver

#### **ANSLEY MOTHERS' UNION**

Ansley Mothers' Union meets on Tuesday, February 2nd at 3.00 p.m., in the Village Church Hall. Speaker will be Mrs. Storer of Hartshill. She will talk on **The Seaman's Mission in Holland** and show slides of the **Dutch Bulb Fields**. Everyone welcome.

Winnie Ponder

#### **ANSLEY LADIES' ASSOCIATION**

Ansley Ladies' Association meet on Wednesday, February 3rd at 8.00 p.m., in Ansley Church Hall. Speaker will be Pam Kilworth. Talking and demonstrating Arts and Crafts.

On Wednesday, February 17th a Cheese and Wine Evening will be held. Anyone welcome at each meeting.

Winnie Ponder

**Many thanks** to all who came along to the Church Army Coffee Evening held at the Vicarage last month. We were able to send £58.00 towards the work of this society both at home and abroad.

**As last year**, Valentine's day will be observed by an informal evening service on Sunday, February 14th to which couples who will be married here in Church this year will be especially invited, together with those who have been married in our Church in the most recent years. Opportunity is also given to our regular members of the Church family to invite their friends and neighbours.

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#### **TRUST GOD TO PROVIDE**

Jesus says:

"Moths will eat your clothes  
rust will eat your car  
inflation will eat your savings  
time will eat your body  
good works will feed your pride"

What then ?

If that was your life you have wasted it, you have lost  
your soul  
hold money lightly  
give help freely  
pray boldly  
true wealth is eternal life  
surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ is the price.

**Lent Boxes** will be available again this year in aid of TEAR fund's work in the Third World. Diana Keeley is in charge of this and will see that you have a box. Do please ask Diana.

## **GOOD FRIDAY 1988**

Helen Lee, well known throughout the Church of England for both speaking and writing books on the subject of 'Family Life,' has agreed to come and lead a special day for women in our parish on Good Friday. Do book the day in your diary and further details will be in next month's magazine.

Last year we enjoyed 'Good Friday Event' for children in the Church Hall, Ansley Village. We shall hold a similar programme this year and mothers who would like to attend the above Women's Day will know that their children are in the hands of a team of helpers.

Catherine Jasper

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### **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

"Those in Christ shall be made alive"

December 30—William Sidney Clarke, 71 years of Ansley Village.

December 30—Edward Davies, 67 years of Ansley Common.

January 6—Joseph Woods, 66 years of Ansley Common.

January 21—Richard Mellor, 79 years of Birchley Heath.

### **MR. RICHARD MELLOR**

It was with a feeling of great sadness that we all learned of the passing of Dick Mellor on January 17th. Dick had been around the parish of Ansley for a very long time and had looked after its interests during most of that time. He has most faithfully served as a Parish Councillor and member of the Atherstone Rural District Council and in later years as a Councillor on the North Warwickshire Borough Council. He served as a governor of the local schools which serve the children of the Parish. He was also a keen supporter of the Ansley Parish Church.

Dick spent much time in serving the interests of all the people in the Parish and was not content until he thought "fair play" had been achieved for everybody. He will be greatly missed by us all.

To Mrs. Mellor and her family, Keith, Geoff and Marcia, and their families, the Church in Ansley sends a message of thanks and deepest sympathy at this very sad time and pray that God will give them strength and comfort to overcome their very sad loss.

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"Life with Elvis" is the title of a book by David Stanley, who was half-brother of Elvis Presley. If Elvis Presley ever caught your imagination then this book would be well worth your reading it. Published by Kingsway priced £5.95. You may persuade someone to buy it for your birthday present, or get it from the library.