

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 764

FEBRUARY 1989

Price 13p



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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.

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel.: 382902

February 1st, 1989

Our Dear Friends,

On the 14th of this month St. Valentine's day is celebrated. The day for romantic lovers.

Valentine lived in the third century A.D. He was arrested during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius the second and was imprisoned because of his loyalty to Jesus Christ.

The Imperial guard tried everything to make him loose his faith; he was flogged and stoned but nothing would move his open and joyful love for the Lord.

His commitment to Jesus so impressed his jailer that the jailer's blind daughter was brought to the prison so that Valentine could stretch his hands through the prison bars and pray for her. The result of this was that she was healed and fully received her sight; she also became a disciple of Jesus Christ.

As time went on the Emperor Claudius realised that nothing would move Valentine from his faith, so it was officially decreed that Valentine should be executed.

On the night before he was to be beheaded, Valentine wrote to his new convert, the jailer's daughter, encouraging her to pray, to witness, and to be faithful to the Lord. Then he ended the letter with the now famous three words, 'From your Valentine.' The date was February 14th, 270 A.D.

So February 14th remains an important day because it speaks of an unwavering love that a disciple of Jesus had for his Master at a time of acute persecution.

Romantic **passion**, not love, is what so many experience today, and that may not outlast a summer holiday.

However, genuine, lasting and self-giving love is the material that makes a worthwhile marriage. The very word 'love' has been debased to mean the same as lust. So it is easy for people to be wholly mistaken about their feelings for one another. Early marriages based on false assumptions lead to early divorces. Probably the largest proportion of marriage failures are due to self-centredness and that leads to head-on collisions, rows, resentments, neglect and a heading out for independence.

A man who is determined to continue his pre-marriage pleasures on his own will soon have a wife who is resentful of being left out of his life, and a woman who continuously demands her own way will turn her husband into a sullenly repressed personality.

The key to relationships is always the same and that is to embrace the one whose love conquered Valentine's heart; Jesus Christ Himself.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

EVENTS DURING FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 1st

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship at the Vicarage.

Friday, February 3rd

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, February 5th — Last before Lent.

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, 'Great Characters of the Bible—
Samuel.'

Tuesday, February 7th

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Ash Wednesday

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

Friday, February 10th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Saturday, February 11th

10.00 a.m.—4.00 p.m. Delegates to Diocesan Action Conference at
Bedworth.

Sunday, February 12th — Lent 1

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Guest Service for Valentine's Day, 'How can love
last ?'

Thursday, February 16th

7.45 p.m. Lent Service, 'William Tyndale.'

Friday, February 17th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, February 19th

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion. 'Great Characters of the Bible—
Saul'

Thursday, February 23rd

7.45 p.m. Lent Service at Fillongley.

Friday, February 24th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, February 26th

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

3.00 p.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, 'Great Characters of the Bible—
David.'

ANSLEY LADIES' ASSOCIATION

Feb. 8—Household Linen and Knitwear.

Feb. 22—Speaker: Mr. Harding.

Our Church needs approximately £160 per week to meet the cost of **insurance, quota, heating and lighting, maintenance and small item expenses.** The following figures give the total collection received on six consecutive Sundays towards the close of 1988.

November	6—£ 88.21	a deficit of	£71.79
	13—£ 98.48	a deficit of	£61.52
	20—£ 79.74	a deficit of	£80.26
	27—£106.95	a deficit of	£53.05
December	4—£127.25	a deficit of	£32.75
	11—£106.74	a deficit of	£53.26

Total deficit £352.63

We can readily see from these figures that our weekly giving needs to be increased, so that expenses can be met, and gifts put aside to meet urgent repairs. Please ensure you collect your free-will offering envelopes—available at Church.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

“On the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the Church”

Jan. 15—Rachel Louise Mellor of Galley Common.

Funerals

“When all of life is over, and our work on earth is done”

Dec. 29—Ethel Mary Moore, 66 years of Ansley Common.

Jan. 6—Keith Reginald Hemmings, 44 years of Over Whitacre.

Jan. 20—Edna May Bradley, 80 years of Ansley Village.

Jan. 20—George Aston Varney, 82 years of Ansley Village.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks gifts received in memory of Doris Ward amounting to £258. We appreciate the generosity of many in contributing to this amount especially to Robert in remembrance of his wife.

The new boiler has now been installed and should make a considerable improvement to the heating in Church. It has been made possible by the gifts of many on last year's **Gift Day**, and also money received in memory of **Ernest and Letitia Mander** and a substantial sum given in memory of **Stephen Truelove**. We are most grateful to all concerned in this project especially to the little band of workers whose labours helped reduce the final bill considerably. The old oil boiler has given good service over many years through the help and kindness and labour of friends and we want to record our thanks to them but we shall not be sorry to have now eliminated the fumes which occasionally became acute when the wind was in a north westerly direction.

Guest Service is arranged for Sunday, February 12th at 6.30 p.m., it is the Sunday nearest St. Valentine's Day. You are invited to this special service and also to bring a friend.

Couples who were married last year and those to be married at Ansley Church this year are given a special welcome. Our guest will be Mrs. Pat Tatum whose ministry in song is widely appreciated in many parts of the country.

The Clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
At late or early hour.
To lose one's wealth is sad indeed,
To lose one's health is more,
To lose one's soul is such a loss,
That no man can restore.

St. John's, Ansley Common was able to send £14.58 to the work of TEAR Fund organisation's work in the Third World from the collection at the Carol Service on December 18th. A letter of appreciation is on the notice-board inside the hall.

How will you observe Lent? Here are five suggestions!

1. Read carefully and thoughtfully St. Luke's Gospel.
2. Learn a few key Bible passages by heart.
3. Miss one meal each week and spend that time in prayer.
4. Deny yourself one small item and give the money to the Third World.
5. Write that letter; give that apology; make that visit.

The twenty four hour story at Offchurch is on Friday, March 3rd commencing at 6.00 p.m. to Saturday, March 4th at 3.30 p.m. The Chief Secretary of the Church Army will speak at the four sessions and lead the discussion groups. The cost will be £16.50 per person for full board; or £5.00 for Friday evening including dinner. £7.00 for Saturday morning and afternoon sessions including lunch, if you just want to be a day visitor. Please hand in your booking any time now.

Lent Services this year will be on Thursdays commencing at Ansley Church on Thursday, February 16th at 7.45 p.m. There will be a screen presentation of the life of William Tyndale. Thursday 23rd the service will be at Fillongley, when John Nightingale will speak on Mission in our Diocese. Speakers for these Lent Services in March are The Provost, The Bishop and the Deanery Youth Officer. Refreshments will be served at the close of each service. We trust that you will make a note in your diary and plan to come.

Church Urban Fund is the fund organised by the Archbishops to assist those involved in Christian ministry in the deprived areas of our country. The aim is to restore faith, dignity and hope in very miserable and needy areas. In some places very large and virtually redundant Church Buildings are being re-designed to meet the needs of the children, the unemployed and the old people. Taking care to provide for the spiritual hunger so desperately evident in the lives of the thousands whose homes are within reach. We have the opportunity to support that work on the first Sunday in each month by placing an offering in a specially provided plate at the door. Enable us to send a realistic figure!