

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 824

FEBRUARY 1994

Price 20p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

Mrs. CATHERINE A. JASPER

The Vicarage, Ansley Village, Nuneaton CV10 9PS

Telephone: Chapel End 396403

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

Ansley Vicarage,
February 1st, 1994

Our Dear Friends,

During this month we begin the season of Lent. Why not be positive about observing it and commence this six week period at the special Ash Wednesday service at 10.00 a.m.

The word 'Lent' is an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning 'springtime,' and that is the time when things grow. All of us are encouraged when we see things we have planted show signs of life.

We can also be encouraged when we see our own faith grow and develop. Richard Wurmbrand, whose faith was tested for fourteen years in a communist prison, said that faith could be expressed in two words, **Though** and **Yet**. Job explains it well in his thirteenth chapter and fifteenth verse where he was able to write, "Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him."

Can you say about your life and relationship with God, 'Though this may happen, yet will I trust in Him,' 'Though my prayer seems to be unanswered, yet I will trust Him,' 'Though I may face huge disappointments, yet I will trust in Him,'

Such a faith has taken former television producer Sarah Jarman away from the film and television world of America, London and Australia where she worked in publicity and production, amongst the famous and wealthy. Then, there were plenty of rewards of a kind. First class travel, rubbing shoulders with the glamorous and the enjoyment of a stylish flat in each centre. Sarah says, "But I was restless, always looking for something better, until I realised that nothing else but Jesus was actually valuable in my life. The love I found from Him was more fulfilling than all my television work."

Sarah went to labour with a team in one of Brazil's shanty towns amongst the notorious six million street children. Befriending them, tending their wounds, feeding them and praying for them. But it was a time when her faith was really put to the test. After two weeks in the hopeless situation of seeing children dead, drugged, fighting or sleeping in the streets, she began to question the wisdom of what she was doing. Until one day she met a young black man of eighteen years of age who had spent fourteen of his years as a member of a street gang, but now radiant through his Christian faith first shown to him through the love of the local Christian community.

Greatly encouraged by this encounter her faith turned the corner. Now she helps run a home where the street children can be lovingly rehabilitated.

Let us pray for her, the children she helps, and the needy young people known to us, as well too seek to exercise a genuine faith.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

DIARY OF EVENTS IN FEBRUARY 1994

Tuesday, February 1st

Mothers' Union in the hall.

Wednesday, February 2nd

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies meet in the hall.

Sunday, February 6th

8.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer, A.S.B.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, B.C.P.

Tuesday, February 8th

7.30 p.m. Meeting of Synod.

Wednesday, February 9th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship at the Vicarage.

Sunday, February 13th

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Valentine Service.

Monday, February 14th

6.30 p.m. Children's Club in the Church Hall.

7.45 p.m. Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

Wednesday, February 16th—Ash Wednesday

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies meet in the hall.

Sunday, February 20th—Lent 1

10.30 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

Wednesday, February 23rd

7.45 p.m. Lent Service at Corley Church.

Sunday, February 27th—Lent 2

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

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Service, A.S.B.

Meetings for prayer in Church every Friday 6.45 p.m. Explorers meet every Thursday at St. John's for boys and girls 6.30 p.m.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Marriage—'This ring,' a sign of honour, love, giving and sharing.

Jan. 27—Michael John Darley of Kenilworth to Lois Gwynneth Woodward of Ansley Village.

Funerals—'When other helpers fail Lord, with me abide.'

Jan. 6—John Green, 67 years, of Springfield Farm.

Jan. 20—Thomas Auldred Whordley, 85 years, of Birmingham Road, Ansley Village.

LETTER FROM OUR CHURCHWARDEN MR. GEORGE PONDER

Dear Friends and Parishioners of St. Laurence Church Parish of Ansley, It is with regret and sadness that I write to inform you of the resignation and retirement of our Churchwarden Mr. Frank Arnold from active duty. Frank has served Ansley Church over many, many years without fear or favour both when we have been fortunate to have a vicar, and during times of interregnum. A fund has been opened into which gifts may be placed in appreciation of all Frank's devoted years of service.

Yours faithfully, George Ponder

Dated 16-1-94

A lot of good work is regularly undertaken by many members of the congregation and is always greatly appreciated. A group spent several hours in **church cleaning** up after all the Christmas decorations and flower arrangements had been removed. Then there are those who quietly get on with the cleaning work when it comes their turn on the rota list. It is all part of our worship of Almighty God and does not go un-noticed.

Also are the many **magazine distributors** who monthly deliver each issue. It can sometimes be a tiring job especially when the weather is unpleasant. This is a valuable and important work and we are all most grateful.

The **Churchyard gardens** are regularly attended too, with plants and shrubs often well manured. This always gives a fresh appearance to the place and is enjoyed by many visitors. There also remains a section of the **Churchyard grass** which is still kept neat and trim by voluntary hands and that is always good to see.

A very big thank you!

A Gentlemen's gold signet ring was found at the War Memorial following the Remembrance Day Service last November. Enquiries should be made to Manor House Farm.

The Synod meeting on Tuesday, 8th February will be addressed by a team of people speaking about 'how people come to faith,' based on a book by Canon John Finney. The team speaks at 8.15 p.m., and is open to the public from that time. It is held at Holy Trinity Church Centre, Attleborough.

Mothers' Union. Once again we are starting a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

The speaker for Tuesday, 1st February will be Thelma Burns. Hope all our members will be present. Thelma has spent some years in Uganda and has recently returned from there. She will have a very interesting story to tell.

W. Ponder

The Parochial Church Council meets on February 14th. Amongst the items under discussion is the choice of a new Churchwarden. This office ought not to be thought of as a burden for life. An increasing number of Churches throughout the land are accepting appointments for just five years at the most. Nevertheless it should be remembered that it takes time to settle into such a responsibility and to 'learn the ropes.' Nomination forms are being circulated and the voting will take place at the A.G.M. Prior to that, those whose names are put forward will have already read and discussed the 'job description' papers at the vicarage.

Tom Whordley passed away on Thursday, 13th January. He was born in Ansley Village eighty five years ago. He enjoyed 62 years of happy married life to Edna who came from Coton. It was at Coton Parish Church they were married in 1929. He worked at Haunchwood, Ansley and Arley pits and also with his wife as caretakers at the Village School. Together they loved that job most of all. Tom lost his wife just twenty-three months ago, whom he greatly missed. We offer our sympathies to his children Peggy and Brian and all of the family.

John Green died during Christmas last year, he was a very well loved gentleman as the number of people attending the funeral indicated, John was a very hard working farmer with the added responsibility of caring for his family and running the home, He was born at Arley where they originally farmed with horses, John bought Springfield Farm some forty years ago and, together with his son, made it the success that it is.

Many joined us as we prayed for the family in their sudden loss especially remembered were his children Isobel, Carol, Andrew and Carlton.

Whilst cars were being driven away from the Church car park after the Carol Service on December 19th, 1993 Margaret Gillott's car was damaged. Any helpful information regarding this incident will be appreciated.

Look out for a special Holy Week booklet, very well produced, that is being distributed to every home in the country over a period of four days following Palm Sunday. Pray for God's blessing on this great ministry to our 25 million homes in Britain.

The Revd. Jackson Kasozi has become a very good friend to many in our diocese, He is at present studying at Birmingham University and living in the parish of St. James, Fletchamstead.

His studies into the 'healing effect of the East African revival' and its contemporary relevance to the Church of Uganda are significant and have been funded through the generosity of individuals and parishes in the diocese.

However, Kasozi has to eat and travel, as well as study, hence this letter asking if you or your parish would consider contributing either to his board, his books or his travel?

He will complete his studies in October this year, when he expects to return either to a parish or to a post at Mukono Theological College in Uganda.

If you are able to assist in this way it would be a great help. Cheques should be made out to the Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance.

Valentine Service this year will be on Sunday, 13th February at 6.30 p.m. Particularly invited are those couples getting married this year. All those of us who are married will have the opportunity to renew our vows together. Guests at the service will be David and Eileen Roper, David is the Churchwarden of the Church of St. John, Mansfield in Nottinghamshire. They will both be speaking about their faith.

Lent Services this year will be held each Wednesday evening in Lent commencing on Wednesday, 23rd February at 7.45 p.m., at Corley Parish Church. We shall be moving round to each Church in the Ley group in turn. A variety of speakers will follow the theme of "Knowing our Faith" and its demands, privileges and opportunities. Make a point of coming to one or more of these special Lenten Series.