

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 836

FEBRUARY 1995

Price 20p



Vicar:

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Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

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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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February 1st, 1995

Our Dear Friends,

Does God really exist? If He does why does He not stop all the countless forms of atrocity that are carried out around the world daily? All those murders, accidents, attacks, fires, floods, robberies, muggings, cruelties, earthquakes, etc., that everyday the radio, television and newspapers bring into our homes? All those reports and incidents cannot fail to shock and horrify us.

When the pain gets very close to us and involves those we love, it is so easy to get very bitter and to blame God; to wonder why He didn't engineer circumstances so that a tragic situation could be avoided.

However, it is not God's will that we should suffer. He loves us very dearly and wants the best for us. He made a perfect world, but He is having to deal with the situation as it is; so there is no easy and simple answer because it is a world in which there is no stability or predictability. It is that way for us all. The unwanted, the unexpected, the unsettling, the irritating and the dangerous incident should not surprise us.

So where does the stability we all need come from? Peace in the turmoil is discovered by anchoring our faith on the unchanging everlasting Lord, whose love envelopes us. Our joy and hope can be steady even when we find ourselves surrounded by either the wonderful or the tragic. The Bible teaches us that God's all uncompassing love is for those who choose to take it. So in times of personal crisis, the faithful often experience a quiet assurance in the chaos that the Lord is present and is still in control.

George and Joan Baker and family* lived in Florida during the hurricane of 1992. Having spent a night in a community shelter they returned to their home to find everything destroyed except some interior walls. Bewildered, they picked their way through the rubble and found, amongst other things a note Joan had written during better times. It was a Bible verse and it was still in place on the wall in that part of the house that was once the kitchen. This is what it said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." On the remaining bathroom wall was another Bible verse she had noted, "O give thanks to the Lord for He is good."

They came to realize that God had not lost control of their lives and that He wanted them to trust Him when nothing made sense. His Presence was very near.

Sometimes God allows things to happen that we cannot understand why. He sees our situation from the perspective of eternity and we only see it from where we are. Suffering can bring a person closer to Christ if they allow it.

The most important healing we can have is, of course, spiritual healing through Jesus, so that we are right with God, be this in sickness or in health.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 1995

Sunday, February 5th

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

Monday, February 6th

- 6.30 p.m. Children's Club with 'Youth for Christ.'

Tuesday, February 7th

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union, Speaker: Sister Catherine,

Wednesday, February 8th

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Friday, February 10th

- 7.45 p.m. Fund Raising Committee.

Sunday, February 12th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion with renewal of marriage vows.
"The Role of the Family."
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Service,

Thursday, February 16th

- 7.30 p.m. Coffee Evening and Display of Slides of Ansley Church Memorabilia,

Friday, February 17th

- 8.00 p.m. Young People Leaders Meeting.

Sunday, February 19th

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

Monday, February 20th

- 6.30 p.m. Children's Club with 'Youth for Christ.'

Wednesday, February 22nd

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Thursday, February 23rd

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

Friday, February 24th

- 7.30 p.m. 'Focus on Renewal' in Coventry.

Sunday, February 26th

- 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,

Every Tuesday

- 6.00 p.m. Children's Club, Ansley Village Church Hall.

Every Thursday

- 10.30 a.m. Mother and Toddler Group, Ansley Village, Church Hall.
- 6.30 p.m. Explorers, St. John's, Ansley Common.

Every Friday

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

Stamp Collection. Peter and Pat Bysh started collecting and sorting postage stamps in a little back bedroom of their home in 1966. Every penny raised through sale has been sent to Missionary Societies in this country and overseas. They have made thousands of pounds over the years.

Pat has been very ill over the past eight years with a brain tumour and she died last November. They often write to Mrs. Florie Priest

who parcels up the stamps we put into the box in Church. Here is an extract from their letter in November.

"Prayers have been answered over this eight year period and especially over the last few days while I have been sitting with Pat in the MacMillan Continuing Care Unit. These have not been easy days but God has revealed His Presence.

"Pat slipped away at 10.00 a.m. on Monday the 7th of November very peacefully. She is now with the Saviour she loved to serve and although I quite naturally feel a sense of loss, I am also aware of God's comfort around me and feel a sense of joy that Pat's suffering has come to an end."

Coffee Evening and Display. There will be a Coffee Evening on February 16th in the Church Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m. On display will be slides, photographs and newspaper cuttings of years past in Ansley; mostly relating to the Church, i.e. The Pageant, The Bells and Flower Festivals. This will be a time for older Ansley people to remember the event and for 'newcomers' to find out a little of local history focused on the Church.

There will be a small bring and buy stall, but no entry charge. However donations will be in aid of the Building Fund.

Anthony Truelove and Margaret Antill

Ansley Mothers' Union. A happy new year to you all. May we remember in our prayers all Mothers' Union members who are retiring this year after their six year term of office.

On Tuesday, 7th February we meet in the Church Hall at 3.00 p.m. The speaker will be Catherine Jasper, who I am sure will give us a very interesting talk. Hope to see you all there. W. Ponder.

Day of Prayer. The Church will be open from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., on Thursday, February 23rd. Please put your name and time you can come on the rota. This will enable the Church to be manned by one or more persons during this all important day of praying.

The New Room. The architect, John Holmes, is meeting with the North Warwickshire Borough planners to discuss the site for the building. We have expressed that the building should be approximately 76 sq. metres in ground space on the site of the old toilet and shed in a position that does not disturb any grave. Having seen the planners the architect will then report back to our building committee to discuss the design required.

In addition to the modernisation of the toilets why do we need a room when we have two halls in the parish? One in Ansley Common and one in Ansley Village? The answer is simply this—that the worship centre is at Church End. That ancient building is the place where the faithful meet week by week to worship God. The families who worship realise the necessity of worship together. During the service the children then go to the porta-kabin for their lessons and also join their parents at the communion rail.

Margaret Antill writes about the importance of this—"We must make the habit of coming to Church **a way of life for our children**, so that when Satan's dark clouds are around they will have the courage and commitment to do what is right and hopefully become what the Christening Service expresses, 'Christ's faithful soldier and servant fighting valiantly under His banner against sin, the world, and the devil, to the end of their lives.'"

So we have to face the challenge, and provide for our families, parents and children as we go into the next century and beyond. The Baptism service expresses it so forthrightly 'Children who are too young to profess the Christian faith are baptised on the understanding that they are brought up as Christians **within the family of the Church**. As they grow up they need the help and encouragement of that family, so that they learn to be **faithful in public worship** and private prayer to live by trust in God and to come to Confirmation.'

We must make every effort to make this possible.

Make sure to book Saturday, March 18th for 'Pause for Thought.' This will be held in Ansley Village Church Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. The speaker is Mrs. Helen Lee, She was very well received on her previous visits 1987 and 1989, so we look forward to welcoming her again. Programmes including the menu for the mid-day meal will be on sale shortly.

It is costing approximately £275 per week to run our parish. December 1994 is the most recent month's collection figures available showing our financial health.

4th December	Income	£182.45	Deficit	£89.54
11th December	Income	£168.08	Deficit	£103.92
18th December	Income	£306.58	Surplus	£34.58
25th December	Income	£141.53	Deficit	£130.47

Deficit for the month of December £289.35

Lent begins on March 1st. The special weekday meetings being arranged include the showing of a series of videos at meetings in people's homes during mornings, afternoons and evenings. If you would like your home included in the programme, do let us know. The video theme is 'How the World came to be.' In the quest for truth about our planet's ancient past, scientists come face to face with dramatic evidence concerning our origins. The photography is breathtaking!

The special service on Sunday, February 12th, being the Sunday nearest Valentine's Day will be in the morning Family Communion. For the first time the young families will have the opportunity to renew their marriage vows together. Refreshments will be served afterwards and we shall share a special Valentine cake.

Funerals at the Crematorium

January 11—Cyril Taylor, 85 years, of Birchley Heath.

January 17—Mary Elizabeth Flowers, 84 years, of Croft Mead, Ansley Village.

We offer our condolences to Robert, Stella and Virginia in the loss of their father Mr. Cyril Taylor.

Also to the family of Mary Elizabeth Flowers. Our sympathy especially to George, Mary's husband, and to their sons Dick and Tom and daughters Betty and Susan. Mary was born at Nuneaton, lived at Arley and later at Ansley. George and Mary were married at St. Wilfrid's, Arley in 1932 and enjoyed 63 years of married life together.

To both families we trust that they will know God's ever present help in their time of need.