

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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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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1st February, 1996

Our Dear Friends,

Boris, from the church in Tbilist, Georgia, was travelling on a train and soon got into conversation with a fellow passenger. The discussion turned to things that people believe. Boris listened while the other passenger explained his atheism. Then Boris, taking his Bible, quoted various parts to explain his faith, but the atheist remained unconvinced. It soon became evident to the two men that nothing was to be gained by any further conversation and they lapsed into uneasy silence.

Boris left the compartment for a while, leaving his Bible on the seat. On his return Boris saw that his Bible was gone. The other man was just closing the window. He had thrown the Bible off the train. The journey continued in stony silence.

Months later a stranger called on Boris. He was from a neighbouring village, and he wanted to be baptised. Boris was surprised, and asked what church the man belonged to. "None," the stranger replied. "But I have read my Bible and I know about God. I know that Jesus Christ is Lord and I want to be counted one of His followers." "A Bible,?" Boris asked, for Bibles were scarce in that part of the old Soviet Union. "Where could you possibly have a Bible from?" "I am a builder, working on a site near a railway track," came the reply. "A train came by, and a book came flying out of a window, and landed not far from where I stood." I picked it up and it was a Bible." Boris quizzed the visitor about when and where this strange event had taken place. There was no doubt about it. The Bible was the one that had belonged to Boris. In fact, the stranger had the Bible with him and showed it to Boris. There was his old familiar Bible which had served him so well for so many years and his name was in it too.

The visitor explained that having found the Bible he took it home and read it. Some parts had been heavy going but other parts had fascinated him, even gripped him, and finally convinced him that here was more than just a book, but rather the truth about God and Jesus Christ.

Not long afterwards the builder was baptised; he also offered to return the Bible back to its original owner but Boris refused to accept it. "No" he said, "this book has done such wonderful things for you that I want you to keep it. I pray that it may do wonderful things for other people too."

The builder went away from his baptism with considerable enthusiasm and within a few years a new Christian community had emerged all because of a Bible which someone tried to throw away.

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.



## DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

### **Sunday, February 4th**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion. B.C.P.  
10.30 a.m. Family Communion. A.S.B.  
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. B.C.P.

### **Monday, February 5th**

7.30 p.m. "Chicken in a Basket" at the Fir Tree, Arley.

### **Tuesday, February 6th**

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union, Ansley Village Church Hall.

### **Wednesday, February 7th**

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

### **Friday, February 9th-11th**

Diocesan Conference at Swanwick.

### **Sunday, February 11th**

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer.  
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

### **Thursday, February 15th**

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council.

### **Sunday, February 18th**

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

### **Tuesday, February 20th**

8.00 p.m. Pancake Evening.

### **Wednesday, February 21st — Ash Wednesday**

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.  
7.30 p.m. "Team Testimony."

### **Sunday, February 25th — First Sunday in Lent**

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.

### **Every Tuesday in the Village Church Hall**

10.00 a.m. Senior Citizens.  
6.00 p.m. Children's Club.  
7.45 p.m. Youth.

### **Every Thursday**

10.30 a.m. Mothers & Toddlers in Village Church Hall.  
6.30 p.m. Explorers in St. John's, Ansley Common.

### **Every Friday**

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

"Chicken in a Basket" is a "Ley Group" event at the Fir Tree at Arley. Costing £2.75. Commencing at 7.30 p.m. It is an occasion when men are meeting to hear more about the "Walk of 1000 Men."

An Advance Notice that the "Christian Viewpoint" ladies are arranging a "Barn Dance" at the Fir Tree, Arley on Saturday, March 2nd at 7.30 p.m. Tickets for this event will be on sale during this month.

**Electoral Roll.** This is an extra reminder to fill in a new form if you desire to be on this roll. It is being renewed this year.

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

**Baptisms** "To live by trust in God and to come to Confirmation."

January 21—George Charles Sutton, of 2 Park Cottages.

**Funerals** "Whoever believes shall not perish but have Everlasting Life."

January 11—Alan Dingley, aged 72, of Woodhouse Eaves, Leics.

January 19—Margaret Susan Harper, aged 66 years, of Camphill Road, Nuneaton.

January 26—Tom John Clark, aged 71 years, of Glebe Farm, Birchley Heath.

January 26—Harold Samuel Fessi, 74 years, of Birchley Heath.

**Children's Society.** Thank you, once again, to all those who have collected throughout the year in their Children's Society boxes. A total of £220 has been sent to help the many needy children in our country. Whether it be to help struggling families or to help with the upkeep of family centres or to help give the much needed shelter and support of a listening ear to those many older children who find themselves obliged to seek refuge and care away from their families. Thank you also for the many words of comfort, prayers and kindnesses shown to myself and family after the loss of a dear Mum and Nan.

Margaret Oliver.

**After many years** of suffering **Alan Dingley**, whose last home was in Leicestershire, was laid to rest here in the family grave. We pray for the family, especially Miriam Richardson his sister.

**Margaret Harper** was one of five sisters whose family home was at Hartshill where they worshipped at the Quaker Church. She was the chief cashier at Lester's Chemist for 25 years. Throughout her bereavements and much suffering she had a personal faith in the Lord whom she loved. We offer our condolences to her family and many friends.

**Tom John Clark** was born at Glebe Farm, Birchley Heath and was well respected, as indicated by so many friends present at the funeral. He worked at the pit and the Ansley Workshops. At the service our sympathies were expressed to his wife May—whom he married here at Christmas time 1946—and to the children Roy, Sandra and Maurice.

**Harold Samuel Fessi** was a well known and loved figure in Birchley Heath. Always about with his little dog. A very friendly personality. He served in the War and worked at the Pit. He lost his wife Rebecca in 1991. We express our sympathies to the family.

**The 1996 Flower Rota** is displayed in the Church porch. Please put your name down for the Sunday you would like to provide flowers for the Church. Many do this as an act of Worship to the Lord. Some, to celebrate a happy anniversary. Yet others in memory of a loved one, Margaret Kimberley and Miriam Richardson are willing to arrange flowers in Church if requested. They will be pleased to hear from you.

**Three representatives** from our Church will be going to **The Diocesan Conference** at Swanwick from February 9th to 11th. It has a special prayer we are asked to use:—Gracious Father we thank you for calling us to be your people and to share your love with others. Help us by Your Grace to be grasped afresh by the Good News offered to all in Jesus Christ Your Son, Enable us by Your Spirit to

shape Your Church, so that by our being, doing and speaking, Christ may be made known, and many may find life and hope in Him, Amen.

**The Season of Lent** commences with Ash Wednesday, February 21st. In addition to the morning service of Holy Communion, there will be the evening service in Church at 7.30 p.m., in which many members of our congregation will be taking part in the prayers, readings, and meditations and testimonies. Refreshments will be served at the end of the evening.

**Shrove Tuesday, February 20th**, will be Pancake night. This is an event that will help towards the new room funds and will be held in St. John's Church Hall, Ansley Common. Two pancakes and tea or coffee will be £1, Extra pancakes 50p each. Come, and enjoy this time together as a family.

**The Christmas Fayre** last December resulted in £387.50 being added to the Church funds. A very special appreciation to the few who worked so hard making the ever popular Christmas wreaths. This item alone brought the largest percentage of the income.

**The Film Evening** and apple pies last month was most enjoyable. Many thanks to all those ladies who made the pies, they were good, and a very special "thank you" to Vee Robinson who entertained, most ably, us with her own produced films. A large crowd came and thoroughly enjoyed it and £50 was added to the Building Fund.

**In addition to our own Evening Worship.** In Lent the Ley Group has arranged the following Services on the five Sunday Evenings in Lent:

**"The Kingdom in Society."** The Very Rev. Laurence Jackson, Corley Parish Church, February 25th at 6.15 p.m.

**"The Kingdom at Large."** The Rev. John D. Philpott, Rural Dean. Ansley Parish Church. March 3rd at 6.30 p.m.

**"The Kingdom at Work."** Rev. Christine Perry, Fillongley Parish Church. March 10th at 6.15 p.m.

**"The Kingdom at Prayer."** The Rev's Michael & Sharon Simpson. St. Wilfrid's, Arley. March 17th at 6.15 p.m.

**"The Kingdom on the Move."** The Rev. Daniel Cozens, St. Michael's, Arley. March 24th at 6.15 p.m.

#### **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

Sit up straight, eat your greens, wash your hands and clean your teeth.

Do as you're told, Mum knows best, this is an order, not a request.

Do your homework, take 50 lines. Stay for detention, you know the signs.

Parents, teachers, give orders all, you have to jump at their call.

Older now and the orders are new, Set the alarm, the bus is due.

Take a letter, answer the 'phone. Even when your older your life's not your own.

Years pass by, you're somebody's wife, No more commands to restrict your life.

At last your own boss, your days are your own, but there's housework and chores and you still answer the 'phone.

The children come soon, you're in command now, as you guide them through life and tell them how.

Life's come full circle since your childhood days.

Generation after generation the chain of command stays.

Marie Cove