

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No, 860

FEBRUARY 1997

Price 20p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

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, 1997

Our Dear Friends,

At the end of June Catherine and I, together with Mark and Rebekah, will leave Ansley and move away to Leicestershire. By then we will have been here for a little over eleven years, having arrived in April 1986.

We shall take with us very many memories,

Memories of People. The people whom we have got to know well. The people whose lives have been obviously changed by the Grace of God. The people who have served with reliability and integrity, for nothing can be achieved without them, The people who were so regular in worship, so active in leadership and seemingly, so well in health, but sadly, now having passed on, are with us no longer.

Memories of Homes into which we have been welcomed. The fireside chats, the worries and anxieties shared, the meals enjoyed. The homes where neighbours have joined in to read and discuss the word of God.

Memories of Occasions. Special ones in Church and in the open-air. Times of celebration and of sadness, times of triumph and of tragedy.

Memories of Schools where we have so enjoyed ministry amongst the children, and the welcome given to us by heads and teaching staff.

All is written on our minds; some recalled by photographs, some recalled by dates in the calendar, but all indelibly recorded on our hearts because you have become part of us. You have left your mark upon us, a lasting effect upon our lives. For we all influence each other for good or bad, for time and eternity.

We thank God for the encouragement, faithfulness, support and loyalty shown by so many over the years. Nothing is ever achieved alone, we all need each other for progress, development, improvement and success.

Our going will close a chapter in the life of the Parish Church and open before you a new one. God always has His way of leading us forward into new paths. He wants to be included in all your plans and consulted in all your decisions and honoured in every area of the work, "In **all** your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." God has ideas no one else has ever thought of. Plans no one has ever imagined, and they are the ideal ones—they are the ones that will succeed. They will be imaginative, far reaching and maybe costly, but it will all be worthwhile.

The 1997 verse of the year from Psalm 16 expresses it so well, "Lord my future is in Your hands, I praise You because You guide me."

The hands that our future is in are wounded hands, and that means that they are capable and powerful hands. A Shepherd guides and He is well able to do that. We must place ourselves; you as a company of people, and us as a family, into His hands for what lies ahead.

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 2nd

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion. (Book of Common Prayer).
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer. (Alternative Service Book).
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. (Book of Common Prayer).

Tuesday, February 4th

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Catherine Jasper.

Wednesday, February 5th

- 7.30 p.m. The Alpha Course.

Saturday, February 8th

- 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Alpha Course Away-Day.

Sunday, February 9th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

Ash Wednesday, February 12th

- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion. (Alternative Service Book).
- 7.30 p.m. Service for All.

Friday, February 14th — Day of Prayer

Sunday, February 16th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Wednesday, February 19th

- 7.30 p.m. The Alpha Course.

Thursday, February 20th

- 7.45 p.m. The Parochial Church Council.

Friday & Saturday, February 21st & 22nd

- Walk of 1000 Men Team of 20 Visiting the Parish.

Sunday, February 23rd

- 9.45 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.
- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. (Alternative Service Book).

Wednesday, February 26th

- 7.30 p.m. The Alpha Course.

Every Week in St. John's Church Hall

Tuesday & Thursday 9.30 a.m. Playgroup.

Wednesday 7.30 p.m. Youth Club.

Thursday 6.30 p.m. Explorers.

Meet for Prayer in Church 10.00 a.m. each Sunday morning; 6.00 p.m. each Sunday evening.

Every Week in the Village Church Hall

Tuesday 10.00 a.m. Senior Citizens, 6.00 p.m. Children's Club.
8.00 p.m. Youth Club.

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS

Funerals "Abide with me fast falls the eventide."

January 2—Violet May Newman, 89 years, formerly of Ansley Village.

January 23—Frederick Robinson, 78 years, of Hill Top, New Arley.

At the Crematorium

December 20—Evan Michael Hughes, 77 years, of Ansley Village.

December 23—Iva Phillips, 84 years, of Ansley Village.

January 4—Nellie Summers, 87 years, of Ansley Common.

January 16—Robert Robinson, 77 years, of Ansley Common.

Nellie Summers was a regular member of the Sunday night congregation. She always enjoyed coming to Church and regretted being unable to attend due to illness. She was always a friend, and always pleased to see us, and in recent years enjoyed a service in her home. She always read the 'verse for the year' when she started her day, and could recite it. The Bible verses meant a lot to her. We shall miss her. She loved her home and was always able to smile even in times of weakness and pain. God bless her family.

Robert Robinson (Robbo) came from Durham in 1953 and worked at Arley pit and later at Dunn's Engineering. The family lived in the Village. He and his wife Peggy, who survives him, moved to Ansley Common about five years ago. We offer our sympathies to Peggy and their children, Margaret, Dawn, Shirley, Alan and Jenny.

Iva Phillips was born in 1912 and moved to Ansley in 1926, married to Roland at Ansley Church in 1932. She loved her home and family and garden. They were bereaved of their daughter Sonia in 1953. We offer our condolences to Shirley her surviving daughter and all the family.

Violet May Newman was born at Stockingford in 1907 and spent her childhood at Woodend, Fillongley. After marriage to Ken in 1931 moved to Ansley Village. She was a singer both at the village Chapel and also the Parish Church. Sons Tony and Colin thank God for her.

Evan Michael Hughes was a Welshman and moved to Ansley Village with his wife Kay some years ago. He was a specialist in Community Medicine based at Coventry. Doctor Hughes was a highly respected gentleman. He loved the countryside and his own garden. We continue to pray for Kay in her loss.

Frederick Robinson came from Co. Durham. He joined the Territorials before the war and served in the Durham Light Infantry and the Kings Own Light Infantry in Burma during the war. Afterwards he worked at Haunchwood and Dawmill pits. He was a member of the British Legion. We pray for Violet, his daughter; Kay and Neale, grandchildren, in their sudden loss.

Walk of 1000 men team of about 20 will be visiting in people's homes in the parish during their weekend with us. Do make them welcome, you will find that they are quite human. Two of them will be preaching in Church on Sunday, 23rd.

Ash Wednesday Commences Lent and in the evening there will be a service in Church at 7.30 p.m. It will be informal and several people will take part. Prior to that is the Communion Service in the morning at 10.00 a.m.

Many hours of hard work has been carried out on the inside of the Village Church Hall. It is all looking clean and smart and altogether a great deal better. Thank you **everyone** who has been involved in the project. The initiators, the donators, the buyers, the labourers, the leaders. All have clearly taken a pride in the task and it is to their credit that they have given us a hall that can be put to good use without shame or embarrassment. May it long remain in good service.

We usually recommend a good book for reading during the six weeks of Lent which commences on Wednesday the twelfth of this month. We have six small books about Smith Wigglesworth. "Baptised by Fire" is the story of his life, price £4.99. "Healing" which is a

short devotional book with stories at £2.99. Another one called "The Wigglesworth Standard" at £2.25. "Faith that Prevails" at £2.95. "Ever Increasing Faith" at £3.50 and finally "Faith" at £2.99. Please place your order as soon as possible so that we can get the books in time for Lent beginning. If several people order a different book you may like to swap. All the books can then be read for the price of one. Entirely different is "Pathways of Prayer" by several contributors including Cardinal Basil Hume at £3.50, the cassette to go with it is £6.95.

The Informal Evening Service last month with the music group from Arley was deemed a considerable success by members of the Church Council at the January meeting. It has been decided to repeat this on March 9th and May 11th at the 6.30 p.m. service; and in February, April and June be incorporated with the Family Service in the mornings at 10.30 a.m.

The Day of Prayer is on Friday, February 14th. The Church will be open for prayer from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. A rota will be made out for people who can be in Church at an arranged time, enabling the Church to be open all day for others who have a "minute" just to "drop in."

1 Cor. 13 for Busy Christians

If I am on many Committees

But do not love others

I am simply making a useless noise.

If I have every enthusiasm for useful projects

But forget to love those for whom they are intended,

What good will it do ?

If I am doing many good works, in order to glorify myself,

But do not love others

I am worth nothing.

If I am altogether so busy organising love

That I forget what love is like

It will be of no value at all.

"Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious,
Never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude,
Love does not demand its own way.

It is not irritable or touchy.

It does not hold grudges

And will hardly even notice when others do it wrong.

It is never glad about injustice

But rejoices whenever truth wins its way."

verses 4-6. TEV)

Councils and Committees will come to an end.

Useful projects will become unnecessary.

Good works done from wrong motives will pass away.

But —

Love is the one thing that will last for ever !

Mary Hathaway (Copyright)

The Alpha Course continues apace with its second round of meetings every Wednesday in the Village Church Hall at 7.30 p.m., concluding at 9.30 p.m. An illustrated talk about Christian basics is followed by discussion.