

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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The Vicar would like to hear of cases of sickness. Please send messages to the Vicarage.

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March 1987

Our Dear Friends,

A member of the Moslem religion named Chaudhry became a freedom fighter in the name of Allah. One day he led a group of soldiers to the home of a Christian family with the planned intention of murdering them. The terrified family prayed to Christ for protection. Chaudhry and his soldiers then saw a wall of blinding white fire separating them from the family. It was now Chaudhry's turn to be terrified. He actually knelt and asked the family for their forgiveness before he left them in peace. This and subsequent events impressed on him the power of Jesus Christ until he eventually became a Christian. At Chaudhry's baptism he was given a Christian name, Ghulam Masih Naaman. The English interpretation means 'Slave of Christ !' Today that man is an Anglican Minister. His testimony pays tribute to the power of Christ to transform the life of any person.

The Bible explains that power as the power of none other than the Holy Spirit. He, the Holy Spirit, is at work in the lives of every genuine Christian transforming us into the people He wants us to be. Part of that transformation must include a new attitude to the subject of giving and according to the short guide to the duties of Church membership; which is printed on the card given to every baptised person; is included our duty to give money for the work of the Church overseas. We shall all be given the opportunity to take a Lent Box on the first Sunday of this month, with the option of keeping it beyond the period of Lent. The boxes are for the organisation known as T.E.A.R. fund. This organisation has been able to distribute millions of pounds to the Church overseas, helping to relieve poverty and to rebuild lives.

One missionary writes from the war torn Country of Uganda, "It was tragic to meet six-year-old Robert at Nagura Orphanage near Kampala. Robert was found in bush land in May last year, he could only grunt and walk on all fours using the back of his hands; it was presumed he had been reared by monkeys since his parents disappearance in the ravages of the civil war. Three weeks before I met Robert the staff of the orphanage were thrilled to see him stand up on his two legs for the first time. The orphanage is playing a vital part in the rebuilding of Robert's life."

Whether it is in the case of people like Chaudhry or children like Robert T.E.A.R. is playing a vital role in the overall work of the Lord. Lent gives us the opportunity to be amongst the many who are privileged to help.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

SERVICES IN MARCH

Sunday, March 1st — Quinquagesima

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion T.E.A.R.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Aftermath."

Ash Wednesday — March 4th

- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Parish Church.
- 6.00 p.m. Six o'clock club at St. John's, Ansley Common.
- 7.00 p.m. Special Lent Service at St. John's.
"The beginning of Lent."

Friday, March 6th

- 7.30 p.m. Women's World Day of Prayer—Catherine Jasper.
United at Friends Meeting House, Hartshill.

Sunday, March 8th — Lent 1

- 11.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Does it matter what I believe?"

Wednesday, March 11th

- 6.00 p.m. Six o'clock club at St. John's, Ansley Common.
- 7.30 p.m. **Lent Course United at Arley.** "Honour your Partners"

Sunday, March 15th — Lent 2

- 11.00 a.m. Family Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion. "Is anyone there?"

Wednesday, March 18th

- 6.00 p.m. Six o'clock club at St. John's, Ansley Common.
- 7.00 p.m. St. John's Mothers' Union Holy Communion.
- 7.30 p.m. **Lent Course United at Gorley.** "Drug Abuse."

Sunday, March 22nd — Lent 3

- 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "How can I find God?"

Monday, March 23rd

- 7.30 p.m. Parish Annual General Meeting, Ansley Village
Church Hall.

Wednesday, March 25th

- 6.00 p.m. Six o'clock club at St. John's, Ansley Common.
- 7.30 p.m. **Lent Meeting United at Ansley Village Hall.**
"Honour your Partners," led by Thelma Burns.

Sunday, March 29th — Lent 4

- 10.00 a.m. **Mothers' Day Family Service at St. John's.**
- 11.00 a.m. **Mothers' Day Family Service at Parish Church.**
- 6.30 p.m. **Evening Prayer.** "The changing scene."
(Lessons and Prayers led by members of Mothers'
Unions of both St. John's and Parish Church).

"Honour your Partners" is the title of the evening Lent Meetings on the Wednesdays in Lent beginning on March 11th at Arley. Each session commences with refreshments at 7.30 p.m.

Coffee and Questions. During Lent there will be meetings in some homes in the parish for an informal listening and discussion about the Christian Faith. Some are taking place in the morning, others in the afternoon and one or two in the evening. If you would like to hold such a meeting in your home let us know and we will be glad to arrange it.

Our Sunday School is the title of a competition open to all our Sunday School children. Write a short account about your favourite Sunday School lesson. Putting your name and age on the paper. The winning entry will be published in the magazine and the winner will receive a £1.50 book token. Entries should reach the Vicarage before March 31st.

KHOMEINI — A GREAT BLESSING

On a recent trip through Iran, a leader in a ministry to Muslims was stunned by the comments of Christians in that country.

"Khomeini has been the greatest blessing the church has ever had here in Iran," they said. "He has shown the world what Islam is really like."

It seems that Muslims are turning to Christ in unprecedented numbers. Iranian church leaders report that, currently, 70 per cent of all baptisms are of Muslim converts! Several churches reported that their number included between 50 and 70 per cent converted Muslim.

DEATH BY SUICIDE

The countries with the greatest proportion of suicides and self-inflicted injuries are Hungary and the Soviet Union. In 1980 45 out of every 100,000 people in these countries committed suicide.

In Europe, Switzerland suffers the highest suicide rate, 25 per 100,000 of the population each year. In West Germany the figures stand at 21, in Sweden 19 and 17 in France. The Japanese only just beat the French at 18. In the United Kingdom the story is slightly better, only 9 for every 100,000 people.

How do we combat the tendency to suicide? Christian teaching, witnesses to the intrinsic worth of the individual to a loving, personal God for example Psalm 139.

Your local Citizens Advice Bureau is at Number ONE Stratford Street, Nuneaton. Telephone 372069. You are welcome to contact

them for confidential advice and financial help particularly if you are a pensioner, unemployed, sick, a single parent, part-time worker on a low wage or disabled.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Baptisms

'Repent and believe the Good News'

December 14—Gavin Neil Randle.

February 22—Laura Anne Hewitt.

Jade Anna Martin.

Funerals

'God is our hope and strength a very present help in trouble'

December 31—William Francis Turner, Ansley Common, 70 yrs.

February 2—Alice Emily Barnes, Ansley Common, 56 yrs.

February 2—Lucy Hodgetts, Sheepy Magna, 87 yrs.

February 3—Ronald Whordley, Arley, 60 yrs.

February 4—Hilda Roberts, Ansley Common, 67 yrs.

February 11—Herbert John Parker, Ansley Common, 79 yrs.

MRS. LUCY HODGETTS

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mrs. Hodgetts who lived at Manor Farm, Church End for over twenty years and was a great supporter and friend of Ansley Church. She fed workers at the Church with numerous cups of tea and slices of her home-made fruit cake. She had many kind words to say to all the people who visited the Churchyard with flowers.

She loved her garden and was uplifted when favourable comments were passed about its very pleasing appearance.

To her family and friends we send our prayers for their comfort.

ANSLEY LADIES' ASSOCIATION

There will be a Cookery Demonstration by the Milk Marketing Board in the Village Church Hall on Wednesday, March 4th at 7.30 p.m., organised by the Association. All proceeds for the Village Hall Roof Repair Fund. Admission 50p. Please come and bring your friends.