

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 1st, 1988

Our Dear Friends,

It is always fascinating to hear of the experiences of people who have come to a positive faith in God. I find them a help and a challenge. One such account is that of Doctor Mackay.

Many years ago William Mackay was a young Medical Student. On leaving home for the first time to go to Medical School, his Mother gave him a Bible to mark the occasion.

He cared little for the Bible, and soon sold it in order to have money to spend on drink.

Mackay was a successful student and some years later was on the Staff of a large hospital.

One day an emergency case was admitted; a young man had been badly crushed in an accident. Dr. Mackay was at the bedside, "How long have I to live doctor?" "Not long," came the sad reply. "Then," said the patient, "I'm going to be with the Lord." "Please could I have my book from my landlady?" Dr. Mackay sent for the book and continued his rounds. When he returned he asked the nurse the condition of the young man, and if he got his bank book alright. "Yes" the nurse said, "the book is under his pillow."

Dr. Mackay went to see and found it wasn't the patient's bank book at all but a Bible. Examining it very closely he discovered that it had been his very own Bible given to him by his Mother many years before. Inscribed on the inside cover was his own name and that of his Mother. Dr. Mackay went straight to his own room. Speaking later about the incident he said, "With tears in my eyes I knelt and asked God to be my God. Jesus to be my Saviour. The Lord to be real to me as He had been to my Mother."

Sometime later Doctor Mackay became a minister of the Gospel in Hull and wrote a book called "Grace and Truth" which has been the means of bringing many to know the Saviour Jesus Christ. Amongst them Wilson Carlisle founder of the Church Army. It would be a great encouragement to William Mackay to know that his book had helped another person.

We have a Church Library now, and the number of books available to borrow is growing rapidly.

The books have a definite Christian message and can be a real tonic to read. Joyce Allton is in charge of the library. Why not ask her to recommend a book suitable for you to borrow?

I think that some of us may have the idea that a 'religious' book has to be boring (it must be admitted that some are) but those available in Church have been deliberately chosen because they are refreshing and challenging. The season of Lent is traditionally kept by reading an arresting story. Do try it! and God will bless you.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR MARCH 1988

Tuesday, March 1st

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union, Ansley Village.
Speaker: Catherine Jasper.

Wednesday, March 2nd

7.30 p.m. United Lent Meeting at St. John's, Ansley
Common. "Relationships in the Family."

Friday, March 4th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer at the Church.

Sunday, March 6th — Lent 3

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.00 a.m. Family Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "What is God like?"

Wednesday, March 9th

7.00 p.m. St. John's Mothers' Union Holy Communion.
7.30 p.m. United Lent Meeting at Fillongley.
"Who belongs and Who doesn't?"

Friday, March 11th

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

Sunday, March 13th — Lent 4 — Mothering Sunday

10.00 a.m. **Mother's Day Family Service** at St. John's, Ansley
Common.
11.00 a.m. **Mother's Day Family Service** at the Parish Church.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. **"Is The Home Important?"**
(Lessons and Prayers led by Members of the
Mothers' Unions of both St. John's and the Parish
Church).

Monday, March 14th

7.30 p.m. Parish Annual General Meeting. Ansley Village
Church Hall. Proceedings commence with a cup
of tea provided by Pathfinders.

Wednesday, March 16th

7.30 p.m. United Lent Meeting at Corley. "Relationships in
the Community and in the World."

Friday, March 18th

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

Sunday, March 20th — Passion Sunday

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Baptism.
6.30 p.m. Holy Communion. "Is Sin Serious?"

Wednesday, March 23rd

7.30 p.m. United Lent Meeting at Ansley Village Church
Hall. "What has changed in the way we see
things?"

Friday, March 25th

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

Sunday, March 27th — Palm Sunday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Was the Cross necessary?"

Thursday, March 31st — Maundy Thursday

7.30 p.m. Informal Holy Communion in Ansley Village Church Hall.

April 1st — Good Friday

For all the Ladies in the Parish at St. John's, Ansley Common 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. "Pause for Thought." Speaker: Mrs. Helen Lee.

For all the Children in the Parish at Ansley Village Church Hall 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Children's Event. Games, Competitions, Story, Quiz, Painting, Model Making. Bring your own packed lunch, 50p.

For everyone in the Church

7.00 p.m. Special Service and Good Friday Screen Presentation. Church bus will run 6.30 p.m. from Village and 6.45 p.m. Ansley Common.

Good Friday Pause for Thought programme for Women's Day at St. John's, Ansley Common. The day will commence with coffee at 10.00 a.m. Then will follow talks given by Mrs. Helen Lee. There will be a lunch break with Buffet lunch prepared by the ladies of the 'home meeting' groups. We will finish with half an hour of worship led by members of our own Church family. The cost for the day, including the meal, will be £1.50. Transport can be provided, just let us know if you will need a lift.

Maundy Thursday evening we shall have a simple service of the Lord's Supper as the Lord Jesus Christ would have instituted it in the upper room before He was betrayed. We shall have this service in the Church Hall.

Would you like to help us run the Children's Event in the hall on Good Friday from 10.00 a.m. till 3.00 p.m. ? There will be things to make, games to play, puzzles to work out, songs to sing and truth to learn, and volunteers welcomed.

In the Village Hall. On March 2nd there will be a Bring and Buy and on March 16th there is a Linen Sale. Both events run by Ansley Ladies Association.

Winnie Ponder

IS THE DEVIL REAL ?

The Christian soon discovers the devil to be a reality, he is not the joke they once thought him to be.

A child may well be tempted to steal from mother's purse. The person at the work bench may well think it won't make a scrap of difference to take small objects. The person in the office may consider it nothing to steal the odd postage stamps or personal telephone call or not declare quite everything on the tax form.

It is not a sin to be tempted of course, but to give in to it is. The Lord Jesus Christ was tempted in every way that we are, but He did not yield. To be aware of this means that we can pray with confidence. We will be understood by Him, given mercy and grace to help us just when we need it most.

Catherine Jasper

VISIT OF THE OVERSEAS PARTNERS TO OUR DEANERY

Twelve months ago some of our parishioners attended the great service in the Cathedral at Coventry when Bishop Simon launched the Mission in Partnership programme.

Since then we have formed our own parish links. With Arley; and Corby (Northants) visiting us during our harvest festival, enabling us to know them.

In September of this year the Diocese will have overseas partners from Nicaragua, Barbados, China, North India and other countries visiting us. They are coming at the invitation of Bishop Simon. We shall have the opportunity of meeting with some of them as they spend time in the deanery. We shall know exactly who will be coming to our parish in the course of the next month or so.

We need sometimes to lift our vision of what God wants us to be and to do as individual churches and to see what God has in mind for us. Bishop Simon is looking to this exercise to do that and in our meetings with the overseas visitors to draw from their experiences and view of us in the light of their international experience.

The Partners will be in our Diocese from September 7th to October 2nd. We look forward to meeting them during that period.

Volunteers are urgently required at St. John's, Ansley Common Luncheon Club, Mondays and Wednesdays.

Drivers—to deliver meals (takes approximately 45 minutes), mileage paid.

Helpers—at the Club to help serve meals and clear away.

Anyone interested can contact me, Liz Stuart, at the Volunteer Bureau, 105 Long Street, Atherstone. Tel.: Atherstone 715081.

The Government wants to relax the Licensing Laws in this country, allowing pubs the chance to stay open from 11.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m., from Monday to Saturday.

The Christian Action Research Education is opposed to this move because it believes it will only aggravate the already serious problem of alcohol abuse in this country. The organisation lists the following statistics as an indication of the size of the problem.

25,000 premature deaths each year are related to drinking;

1,000 young people die in accidents where drink is a factor;

In 20% of cases of child abuse alcohol and heavy drinking have been identified as a stress factor;

45% of violent crimes have a drink-related element;

1 in 3 drivers killed on the road are above the legal limit;

740% more offences of drunkenness by under 18's in the last thirty years—3,974 in 1984;

£2 billion lost to the economy is the estimated cost of alcohol abuse;

80% of all deaths from fire are drink-related.

In the light of these facts the Royal College of Psychiatrists states: "There should be no further relaxation of the broad range of Licensing provisions."

What is your opinion ?