

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 765

MARCH 1989

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Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

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Bus Timetable for 6.30 p.m. Evening Service

Ansley Village turn 6.00 p.m.
Birchley Heath Post Office 6.10 p.m.
Ansley Common St. John's 6.20 p.m.
Return Journey from Parish Church 7.45 p.m.

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Ansley Vicarage,
March 1st, 1989

Our Dear Friends,

You remember the experience of Maurice I told you about in the January magazine? How he had a prison sentence of four years at Strangeways for burglary, and through the ministry of the Christian team at the prison, there followed a dramatic experience of the Lord Jesus Christ. Maurice now continues his story.

"During the weeks which followed, I read the whole of the New Testament. It did not take long to discover that God speaks to His children through the Bible. After three months I read about how the Holy Spirit still came to people today just as He did at the first Pentecost. So I asked the Lord to fill me. I lifted my hands towards heaven and my whole body began to shake and my lips chattered. I just opened my mouth and spoke in a language I had never learned.

"I started witnessing to other prisoners, and the officers. But things were far from easy. My wife left me for someone else and my mother had to look after our two children. One night, after praying, I read Psalm 37, 'Depend upon the Lord and He will grant you your heart's desire. Commit your life to Him and He will act.' Then I knew that Tracy and I would someday, be together again. I had tried so often to win her back, but now I realised that only the Lord could do that, so I began to trust Him to do it. Sometimes though, as each week I kept hearing things which hurt me, I almost lost faith and hope that it would ever happen.

"At about this time I really began to pray for my parents. I told them when they visited me and in letters what Jesus was doing in my life. At first they did not like this, although my mum was pleased about the change in my life. Then, one Sunday afternoon, my dad—while having his usual sleep—heard someone telling him in a dream about a church and that he had to go there that night. So he got up and went to the church instead of the pub. He was surprised at what he saw and started going regularly. My mum soon joined him, and gave her heart to the Lord. A few weeks later dad also made that first step of faith."

God continues to heal and mend many broken lives in prison and out of prison. He wants to get through to all of us whatever our background or behaviour; home or habits; family or friends; whether we are traditional or trendy; religious or agnostic; man or woman.

Such a person will then have a very meaningful Easter, and the blessing of the Lord.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR MARCH 1989

Thursday, March 2nd

7.45 p.m. Lent Meeting at Old Arley, St. Wilfrids.
The Provost speaks about healing ministry.

Friday and Saturday, March 3rd and 4th

6.00 p.m. Conference starts at Offchurch.
Speaker: Rev. Michael Rees, Chief Secretary of the Church Army.

Sunday, March 5th — Mothering Sunday

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 11.00 a.m. Special T.E.A.R. presentation for Mother's Day.
- 3.00 p.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, "Water of Life."
(Members of Mothers' Union take part).
Commissioning of New Enrolling Member and
Enrolment of other Members.

Tuesday, March 7th

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union in the Church Hall.
Speaker: Catherine Jasper.

Thursday, March 9th

- 7.45 p.m. Lent meeting at Corley Church.
Speaker: The Bishop of Coventry.

Friday, March 10th

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

Sunday, March 12th — Passion Sunday

- 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Miracles of the Passion."

Monday, March 13th

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

Thursday, March 16th

- 7.45 p.m. Lent meeting at Ansley Church.
Speaker: Captain Keith Masheita, C.A.
Deanery Youth Officer.

Friday, March 17th

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

Sunday, March 19th — Palm Sunday

- 11.00 a.m. Family Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion. "People of the Passion."

Tuesday, March 21st

- 10.30 to 12.30 Children's Holiday Club in the Hall.

Wednesday, March 22nd

- 10.30 to 12.30 Children's Holiday Club in the Hall.

Maunday Thursday, March 23rd

- 10.30 to 12.30 Children's Holiday Club in the Hall.
- 7.30 p.m. The Lord's Supper and Fellowship meal at the Vicarage.

Good Friday, March 24th

- 10.30 to 3.00 p.m. Children's Holiday Club in the Hall.
- 7.00 p.m. Special Service, "He laid down His life for us."
Devotional Service in Church. Bus will run the usual
Sunday route. 6.30 p.m. Village; 6.40 p.m. Birchley
Heath; 6.45 p.m. Ansley Common.

Easter Day — March 26th

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 3.00 p.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.
- 6.30 p.m. Easter Worship, "Man of Passion."

Friday, March 31st

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Funerals and Burials

"When all of life is over and our work on earth is done"

- February 3—Mary Edith Baskett, 53 years of Nuneaton.
- February 6—Francis Maud Buckley, 75 years of Ansley Village.
- February 10—Margaret Elizabeth Woods, 66 years of Ansley Common.
- February 15—William Henry Follows, 63 years of Ansley Common.
- February 17—Henry Atkiss, 86 years of Stockingford.

In 1985 Valerie Gurr's husband left her after more than 20 years of marriage. In despair she turned to churches to look for help.

At the first church she tried, the minister was busy talking to someone else. Down the road the Anglican Church was locked. The Catholic Church was open, and she went inside to pray and weep, but nobody came.

A few nights later she heard church bells and went out again trying to find someone to help her. Again the door was locked and nobody came when she banged on it, "I'm trying to get through to you God, and you are not making it easy," she cried.

When she got home her daughter was there. She had in her hand an invitation she had been given at work that day. It told of a T.V. relay meeting, with Billy Graham on the screen, "I went," Valerie says. "And I was the first to go forward that night."

All the churches in our Nuneaton area are planning the relay/ meetings to be held at Manor Court Baptist Church nightly from June 26th to July 1st. 'Christian Life and Witness Classes' are being held each Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. Meetings for prayer are also being held, Joyce Allton is our representative, who will be pleased to put you in touch with a praying group.

Some of our congregation are enquiring about the possibility of going to the actual meeting of the Billy Graham Crusade in London Earls Court. If there are sufficient to fill a bus seating 29 people, it can be arranged. Leaving 2.00 in the afternoon, arriving home at 3.00 a.m., the following morning. The price per bus seat will be £5. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested.

Children's Holiday Club. Can you help us? Keeping order, helping the children with games, drinks, models? Please volunteer. Tuesday, March 21st to 24th each morning from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and Good Friday 10.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Our A.G.M. takes place on Monday, March 13th at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall, Ansley Village. A review of the parish will be given. Officers and Sidesmen will be elected and the accounts will be submitted. It is a public meeting. Those on the electoral roll are entitled to vote.

Bookings are coming in for the Offchurch Conference. You may come for the whole time, or for part of the time. Transport can be arranged. Many of those travelling in their own cars will have spare seats.

T.E.A.R. FUND SUNDAY is March 5th, please bring your T.E.A.R. fund box to church that day. Diana Kealey is our representative and will be able to return your box to you after the opening. Gift envelopes, if you haven't got a box, are available in Church for your special Lenten offering.

We are grateful to Florrie Priest who regularly sends the used postage stamps to the people who prepare them for sale. The money raised goes to the missionary work amongst the Third World people. Please continue to supply us with your used stamps for Florrie to despatch on our behalf.

Ansley Ladies' Association meet on Wednesday, March 8th for Country Dancing and March 22nd Easter Competition with games and Hot Cross buns. W. Ponder.

Many Thanks to Margaret Oliver who organised the Coffee Evening in aid of the Children's Society. £66.00 was raised.

Flowers. Please add your name to the flower list in the porch if you would like to place flowers in the Church for Sunday worship this year. Some people do this in memory of a loved one. Some, to commemorate an anniversary, and yet others just simply as an act of Worship to God.

FROM WITCHCRAFT TO CHRIST — by Doreen Irvine

This story tells of Doreen Irvine's salvation through faith, from her depraved life of prostitution and witchcraft and how she became a servant of God. She was chosen by God because of her background and her suitability to testify through personal experience of God's mercy to people who have sunk to the lowest depths of life through the way they live.

The key to salvation is the earnest desire to repent and to open our hearts and lives to Jesus.

Doreen had that desire and the Lord came into her life. Through her many testimonies both here and abroad she was instrumental in bringing many other people to be saved. Jesus has a task for each of us—if only we listen to what He is saying and trust in Him to help us through our life.

Joyce Allton.

This book together with many others are available from our Church Library.