

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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MARCH 1990

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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, 1990

Our Dear Friends,

On the 18th June, 1981 a tug made its way slowly towards the beach at Swatow in the Province of Fujian, China. It was towing a large barge containing one million Bibles. The time was midnight. Thousands of Chinese Christians were waiting to receive the cargo and load it onto 80 waiting trucks. The whole secret operation was completed in time for the trucks to move off to various destinations just as dawn was breaking.

Pastor John received his consignment of 10,000 Bibles the following day. "I praised God for hours afterwards, he said, I just hugged the Bibles, thanking Him for His kindness in allowing us to have so many at one time."

The Civic authorities were furious to learn that so many Bibles landed and had been distributed without trace. The scale was so big it had left the authorities highly embarrassed. Pastor John was well known to the police; they would surely come and discover the 10,000 Bibles in his house, and he be imprisoned for many years as a result. After praying he and an old farmer friend, together with the help of a number of Believers buried the Bibles underneath a barn making sure they would not rot or be spoilt.

A few months later Pastor John was taken to the local police station and asked to account for his whereabouts on June 18th. John refused to answer any questions that would land others into prison. In spite of the intense pressure of the interrogation his investigators noted John's serenity. Eventually he was taken into a courtyard in the prison and made to stand on a tall wooden box. The box was about 4 feet high and very narrow. There was only room on it for his feet. A rope was then put round his neck and tightened. The rope was fixed to a wooden beam above him. His interrogators said, "We have given up on you. The moment you sway or when your legs collapse with tiredness you will hang yourself." They added self-righteously, "It is a just penalty for your stubbornness."

Two policemen were assigned to watch the last moments of John, who at this time was in his late sixties. As he looked down on them he observed that they took hardly any notice of him. Bored, they played games.

Next month I will tell you what eventually happened to John, but in the meantime a good exercise in Lent is for us all to praise and thank God for our Christian liberty and to pray for our Christian friends in China especially that they will be strong and sustained in Christ.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR MARCH

Thursday, March 1st

6.30 p.m. St. John's Explorers T.E.A.R. Fund Presentation for Parents.

Saturday, March 3rd

T.E.A.R. Fund Special for Boys and Girls, 10.30 to 12 noon in the Church Hall, Ansley Village.

Sunday, March 4th — Lent 1 — National T.E.A.R. Fund Day

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion,

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer,

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer 1662 Prayer Book.

Theme: "In the Steps of Jesus."

Tuesday, March 6th

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Wednesday, March 7th

7.45 p.m. Lent Service at St. Wilfrid's, Arley.

Speaker: The Archdeacon of Coventry, The Ven. Ian Russell. Subject: "Mission."

Friday, March 9th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, March 11th — Lent 2

11.00 a.m. Family Communion,

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, Theme: "In the heart of Jesus."

Wednesday, March 14th

7.45 p.m. Lent Service at Corley Church.

Speaker: The Rev. Edward Pogmore, Hospital Chaplain.
Subject: "Faith and Healing."

Friday, March 16th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, March 18th — Lent 3

11.00 a.m. Family Service,

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion, Theme: "In the mind of Jesus."

Monday, March 19th

7.30 p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting.

Wednesday, March 21st

7.45 p.m. Lent Service at Fillongley,

Speaker: Canon Michael Sadgrove.
Subject: "Worship."

Friday, March 23rd

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, March 25th — Mothering Sunday

11.00 a.m. Family Communion with the young people taking part.

3.00 p.m. Family Service at St. John's. Explorers Items.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, Mothers' Union taking part.

Preacher: Deaconess Pamela Hamilton.

Monday, March 26th

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

Wednesday, March 28th

7.45 p.m. Lent Service in Ansley Parish Church,
Speaker: Mr. David Major,
Subject: "The Missionary Aviation Fellowship."

Friday, March 30th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Saturday, March 31st

10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. "Pause for Thought."
Speaker: Mrs. Helen Lee.
Ansley Village Church Hall.

Lent Boxes or envelopes will be for the support of T.E.A.R. funds work amongst the World's Children in the Third World. Please ask Diana Kealey for your requirements.

The Coffee Morning at George and Winnie Ponder's home for the Church Urban fund raised £40.00.

THELMA — TO UGANDA

Thelma Burns, well known to us in the Ley Group, has now gone out to Uganda. She will be working there in the ministry of Renewal in the Anglican Church. We had a most inspiring evening on February 8th when Thelma shared her experiences and showed slides of her three month visit there last summer.

A total of £43.35 was given by the people who attended that evening. £33.35 towards a Church being built there and £10 towards Thelma's air fare.

Look out in future copies of the magazine for further news and prayer requests that she sends to us.

Many will remember the visit of Mrs. Helen Lee to us two years ago when she spoke at St. John's. By popular request she makes a return visit to us on Saturday, March 31st. This time she will be speaking in Ansley Village Church Hall. The event will commence at 10.00 a.m. and conclude at 3.00 p.m. The title for the day is 'Pause for thought' and is an invitation to both the men and also the ladies. There will be a buffet lunch to which we are all invited to contribute some eats. A charge of £2 will be made to help cover the expenses.

Helen Lee is not only a speaker with a high reputation nationwide, she is also the author of several books mainly about marriage, relationships, growing up and family life.

On Monday, March 26th the Parish Church holds its Annual General Meeting. In addition to the election of Wardens, the Church Officers, the Council members and a look at the accounts, there will be the usual review of the life of the parish and a looking forward into

the next 12 months. But this year it will be different because it will be done **visually**—looking at slides showing events in the life of the parish on occasions over the last few years. Margaret Antill will also show some of the past Flower Festivals.

Light refreshments will be served and altogether it should be an enjoyable evening. Do plan to come, you may even see yourself on the screen.

During the six weeks of Lent several homes in the parish will be showing the video, "Jesus then and now." If you would like to join this course please ask the Vicar for the details of the time, days and places. This video is particularly valuable because it contains much of the ministry of the late David Watson, who was vicar at St. Cuthbert's, York for many years, and his gifted manner of presenting the Gospel.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Thanksgiving for the birth of a Child

"They brought Children for Jesus to bless" Mark 10,13.

February 11—Amy Sperring of Stockingford,

Funerals

"Teach us to number our days" Psalm 90,12.

January 29—Olwen Violet Potter, 83 years of Camp Hill Road.

February 12—Susan Knight, 36 years of Ansley Village.

The Lent Meetings this year will be in each of the Churches in the Ley Group, that is to say, Arley, Corley, Fillongley and Ansley. They will be held on each Wednesday in Lent commencing at 7.45 p.m. There is a list of interesting speakers covering a wide variety of subjects such as Mission, Healing, Worship, Missionary Aviation, and the Gideon's work.

ANCIENT RELIC FROM SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

The first-ever relic from King Solomon's Temple has appeared after 2,574 years.

The piece which is causing so much interest is an ivory pomegranate, a ceremonial object which would have been carried on top of a sceptre, as part of the Temple ritual in the mid-8th century B.C.

The pomegranate has been authenticated by Professor Naham Avigad, one of Israel's leading archaeologists. The authenticity of the 43mm high pomegranate was confirmed by an inscription below its neck. The translation from ancient Hebrew script, used only until the destruction of Solomon's Temple, reads "Belonging to the Temple of the Lord, holy to the priests."

King Solomon's Temple, built in the 10th century B.C. was destroyed by the Babylonians under Nebuchadrezzar in 586 BC and no remains of the sanctuary were known to have survived until today.