

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 813

MARCH 1993

Price 13p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

Mrs. CATHERINE A. JASPER

The Vicarage, Ansley Village, Nuneaton CV10 9PS

Telephone: Chapel End 396403

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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March 1st, 1993

Our Dear Friends,

According to a survey conducted by researchers for the BBC 1 programme 'Songs of Praise' the hymn "The Day Thou Gavest Lord Is Ended" is BBC viewers choice for second place amongst the most favourite hymns sung at the present time.

The writer of this hymn was John Ellerton. He was born in London in 1826 and died at the age of 67, just one hundred years ago. It is said of him that he was a man that used his time well.

In 1860 he was appointed the Vicar of Crewe Green where he, with his wife and four young children, spent twelve happy years. In addition to his parish work he taught evening classes at the Mechanics Institute for workers of the London and North Western Railway. By this time Crewe had already become a great railway town.

During his years at Crewe Green John Ellerton wrote 86 hymns. Many were composed as he walked back from the Institute late at night including of course 'The Day Thou Gavest,' which was originally intended for the Special Missionary meetings held in the parish.

When he was 50 years of age the family moved to a London parish in which there were many wealthy homes and those which were no more than Victorian Slums. Apart from the more direct needs of his parishioners, John was involved in schemes for sewage disposal, water supplies and the re-use of derelict buildings. The poverty was appalling. It was also a traumatic period in the personal lives of the Ellertons. The area was low-lying and unhealthy with so much sewage seeping into the Thames which bordered the parish. Three of their children died in the eight years they spent there.

He ended his life's work at Torquay and at the funeral service six of his own hymns were sung. One of them being 'The Day Thou Gavest' with its implication of the end of a life as well as the end of a day.

This hymn has certainly caught the public imagination and was chosen by Queen Victoria for her Diamond Jubilee service in 1897 and would inevitably be sung in Churches throughout the land on the following Sunday.

It is said that the tune contributed substantially to the phenomenal popularity of the hymn, yet at first it was denounced as a feeble waltz tune. Vaughan Williams placed it in his 'chamber of horrors' and other prominent people greatly disliked it.

Here in our own parish of Ansley this hymn is a regular favourite. Each day God gives to us is an opportunity to choose the path through Jesus to the day that never ends.

God Bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR MARCH 1993

Tuesday, March 2nd

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Wednesday, March 3rd

7.45 p.m. Lent Meeting at St. Michael's, Arley.

8.00 p.m. Ladies' Club, Ansley.

Thursday, March 4th

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council meeting.

Friday, March 5th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, March 7th — Second in Lent

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Morning Service. Theme: T.E.A.R.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, 1662 Prayer Book.

Wednesday, March 10th

7.45 p.m. Lent Meeting at St. Michael's, Arley.

Friday, March 12th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, March 14th — Third in Lent

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Wednesday, March 17th

7.45 p.m. Lent Meeting at St. Michael's, Arley.

8.00 p.m. Ladies' Club, Ansley.

Friday, March 19th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, March 21st — Mothering Sunday

10.30 a.m. Family Service. Theme: "Mothers."

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

Monday, March 22nd

8.00 p.m. Men's Meeting, Upper Room, Old Arley.

Wednesday, March 24th

7.45 p.m. Lent Meeting at St. Michael's, Arley.

Friday, March 26th

7.30 p.m. Renewal Service at St. Mary's, Atherstone.

Sunday, March 28th — Passion Sunday

10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's.

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, A.S.B.

Monday, March 29th

7.45 p.m. Parish Church Annual General Meeting.

Tuesday, March 30th — Saturday, April 3rd

8.00 p.m. Nightly Showing of The "Jesus" film.

Wednesday, March 31st

2.00 p.m. Afternoon Matinee of The "Jesus" film.

7.45 p.m. Lent Meeting, St. Michael's, Arley.

8.00 p.m. Ladies' Club.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Funerals

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

Jan. 28—Norah Simpson, 75 years, of Stockingford and formerly of Ansley Common.

Jan. 29—Amelia Evans, 86 years, of Ansley Village.

Feb. 17—John William Sherwood, 79 years, of Ansley Common.

Ansley Mothers' Union meet on March 2nd at 3.00 p.m. We have to discuss a forthcoming event at Bedworth Civic Hall on Tuesday, 27th April. The theme is "Let's show M.U. enthusiasm for the needs of the Community." We would like any help with knitted goods for the homeless, Gift packs of toiletries for those in hostels, refugees and rehabilitated young offenders. Soft toys for use in clinics, Bonnets and booties for premature babies. Your help would be most welcome.

W. Ponder

Ansley Ladies meet on March 3rd at 8.00 p.m. Speaker to be arranged. March 17th Mrs. Mackey, Preservation of Life. March 31st Outing and Meal at Shuttington.

W. Ponder

PHILIPPINES '92

Barbara Batts has been able to forward £1011.24 to the Signpost Ministries Trustees. This amount came from a sponsored walk £699; The Summer Treasure Hunt and Barbecue £143.74 and donations £168.50. On February 3rd a good number heard a thrilling account of what God is doing in the Church at Iloilo. Praise God.

GOD'S BLESSING

Do you ever feel at times life is meaningless and dull?
When a friendly smile to greet you would make your day seem full.
Just look at God's creations all around you every day
And count your many blessings and don't forget to pray.
If you're growing old and lonely, if youth has passed you by;
Don't think the world is against you, and don't begin to cry.
Remember Christ, the Master, is always waiting there;
Just ask Him very humbly, for an answer to your prayer.

by John Sherwood of Ansley Common
who passed away last month.
Included here by permission.

All the Lent Meetings this year will be based at St. Michael's Church, New Arley. Commencing at 7.45 p.m., from March 3rd—five consecutive Wednesdays. A special booklet is ready and follows a theme for each week; these are—'Rooted in Christ,' 'Life Together,' 'Ministry Together,' 'Witness in the World,' and finally 'Witness to the World.' During each evening there will be a video presentation. The whole Lent Course is based on the Bishop of Coventry's Diocesan Vision Statement.

Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations to Stan & Romaine Forryan as they celebrate 40 years of marriage on the 21st of this month. We pray that God will enrich their lives and give them His joy.

Mothering Sunday evening service preacher is Mrs. Margaret Jupe. She is the wife of Canon Derek Jupe who is no stranger to our morning congregation. They live at Attleborough.

The Film "Jesus" is being shown at the Nuneaton Abbey Theatre and Cinema during the week commencing Monday, March 29th to Saturday, April 3rd nightly at 8.00 p.m., and on Wednesday afternoon at 2.00 p.m. The charge is as follows—**Full rate £2.50 and Concessionary rate £1.50.** The concessionary rate applies to pupils still at school, the unemployed and O.A.P's. We have to book our seats, please book at the Church or Vicarage **before** 22nd March otherwise a charge of 50p per seat more is made. We plan to go as a party on Tuesday and Thursday for which we can book a small bus. If you want to join in on that plan there will of course be a charge for the bus. This two-hour film is described as "being so realistic, so true to the Spirit of Jesus' ministry and so true to the Bible it will give you the feeling of standing in the presence of the Saviour as He walked on this earth." It is the first time that a major film of the life of Christ has been filmed entirely in Israel. Virtually the entire text for the film was taken from Luke's Gospel in the Good News Bible translation which lends itself more readily to the spoken word although the more familiar parts (such as the Lord's prayer and the Beatitudes) use the Authorised Version. The part of Jesus is played by Brian Deacon, a former member of the Royal Shakespeare Company. The all Arab and Israeli supporting cast give the film the very feel of the land where Jesus walked. The film has been translated into 80 different languages; more than any other film ever.

Holiday Clubs for the boys and girls at both St. John's, Ansley Common and also Ansley Village Church Hall, is being planned for Holy Week. Offers of help will be greatly appreciated as in previous years.

"Walking with Jesus" is the title of a range of 12 cassettes, on each of which a well-known speaker encourages the listener to go deeper into an important theme in the Christian life, by means of twelve short programmes on each. They are intended for individual, devotional listening for people who want to learn more in their Christian lives. Examples of themes include Suffering (Joyce Huggett), Guidance (Steve Chalke) and Being a Christian at Work (Tony Campolo). £4.99 per cassette.