

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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**Vicar:**

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

**Honorary Church Army Evangelist:**

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**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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Our Dear Friends,

Today begins the season we call Lent. It is an old Anglo-Saxon word. The equivalent in our language is 'Springtime.' This is the season for growth. The Christian Community desires to grow in spiritual maturity.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ tells us what that quality of maturity is, "If anyone wants to come with Me, he must forget self, carry his cross, and follow Me." (Matthew 16 v 24).

Some are prepared to turn their backs on lucrative futures because they want to share with others the One who has so wonderfully changed their lives.

A Wearside plumber is selling his possessions in a bid to raise £15,000 to work on a water conservation project in Kenya.

John Paxton from Shiney Row will work as a volunteer builder and maintenance manager for Church Army in Nairobi in East Africa. He will upgrade the inadequate water system there.

The project is expected to take two years and John is keen to see it through, "The current water system is very inadequate and it can be turned off for up to 48 hours at a time," he said, "It serves 200 school children, a dental clinic, cafe and the training college. I will be training the Kenyan nationals. So hopefully, I will be making myself redundant after a couple of years."

John has already raised £3,000 to pay for his air fare and the cost of flying his tools to Kenya, but needs a further £6,000 a year living costs for himself and his family. "I am selling the three-piece suite and other household items. My wife and daughter will fly out later," he added.

I call that, 'forgetting self and carrying the cross.'

In 1956 Nate Saint, a Missionary Aviation pilot, together with four colleagues landed their small aircraft alongside the remote Curaray River in Ecuador. After intense preparation, they felt that the time had come to commence their work. They had hardly got started before they were killed by poisonous arrows shot by Auca Indians, who, at this time, were wild savages.

They forgot themselves, and in following Christ, carried their cross.

Now 39 years afterwards, Steve and Phil Saint have returned to the spot where their father's plane landed and, with the help of a metal detector, have found and unearthed the frame of what was that small aircraft. It had lain buried beneath the shifting sands of the sandbank.

As they were searching, Steve and Phil met an 82 year old Indian who had taken part in the killing of their father in 1956. Through the gallant missionary work of their mother and the wives of the other martyred men this Auca Indian and many others of his tribe have become wonderfully changed by Jesus.

The three men linked hands around the aircraft remains and thanked God for the grace to forgive.

They too were carrying their cross.

What is the cross that our Lord and Saviour wants us to carry for Him in 1995?

God bless you this lenten season,  
James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.



## DIARY OF EVENTS IN MARCH

### **Ash Wednesday, March 1st**

- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 7.45 p.m. Informal Service.

### **Thursday, March 2nd**

- 7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council.

### **Sunday, March 5th**

- 8.00 a.m. Parish Communion.
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer A.S.B. "Satan" his origin.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer B.C.P.

**The Promise** (Hebrews 4)

### **Monday, March 6th**

- 6.30 p.m. 'Youth for Christ' Children's Meeting.

### **Tuesday, March 7th**

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

### **Wednesday, March 8th**

- 10.00 a.m. Lent House Meeting in Ansley Village.
- 7.45 p.m. Lent House Meeting in Ansley Common.

### **Sunday, March 12th**

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion. "Satan" his works.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

**The Road to Holiness** (Isaiah 35)

### **Wednesday, March 15th**

- 10.00 a.m. House Meeting.
- 7.45 p.m. House Meeting.

### **Saturday, March 18th**

- 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Pause for Thought.
- Speaker: Mrs. Helen Lee.

### **Sunday, March 19th**

- 10.30 a.m. Family Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

**Whom to Fear** (Luke 12)

### **Monday, March 20th**

- 6.30 p.m. 'Youth for Christ' with the Children.

### **Wednesday, March 22nd**

- 10.00 a.m. & 7.45 p.m. House Meetings around the Parish.

### **Thursday, March 23rd**

- 7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting.

### **Sunday, March 26th — Mothering Sunday**

- 9.45 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.
- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer A.S.B.
- Preacher: The Rev. Valerie Rushton.

### **Wednesday, March 29th**

- 10.00 a.m. & 7.45 p.m. Lenten House Meetings.

### **Every Tuesday**

- 6.00 p.m. Children's Club, Ansley Village Church Hall.

### **Every Thursday**

- 10.30 a.m. Mothers' & Toddlers, Ansley Village Church Hall.
- 6.30 p.m. Explorers, St. John's, Ansley Common.

### **Every Friday**

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

**Pause for Thought** will be on Saturday, March 18th in Ansley Village Church Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Mrs. Helen Lee will be the speaker. The programmes are now on sale, price £2.50. This includes the meal. The menu and full details are listed in the programme.

Helen Lee lives in Yorkshire, where together with her husband enjoys a busy retirement. Helen has written several books about the family. This is her third visit to our parish.

**Buy a Brick** is one of the many ways being used to bring in sufficient money for the Building Project at the Church. David Morley has drawn up a plan of bricks which is in the Church porch. Each brick is numbered. Those who would like to buy a brick at £1 are invited to do so at either the morning or evening service. The money and brick number will be recorded and full account made in a special book. Our Church Warden, George Ponder, is kindly taking on this responsibility. Those unable to get to the Worship Services, but nevertheless would like to buy a brick can do so by ringing 392401 or through someone they know will be going to Church.

**A Barometer** has been made by Ray Hobbs to record the amount of money coming for the Building fund. It has been erected on the site, and he is keeping it up to date. We are very grateful to him.

**Ash Wednesday** will be marked by two services in Church. The morning Holy Communion at 10.00 a.m., and in the evening an informal service. This will be conducted by a number of our congregation. Do make a special point of coming to this day's services as a good commencement to this Lenten season.

**Lent House Meetings** will take place on the mornings and evenings of each Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. The homes at which these meetings will be held will be announced each Sunday. "How our World came to be" is a fascinating series of videos carefully prepared by a group of scientists. Also available in Church will be a list of house groups on different days in each week at Corley, Fillongley and Arley. These will deal with a different subject giving as wide an opportunity as possible for all of us to take part.

**Ansley Mothers' Union** meet on March 7th in Ansley Village Church Hall at 3.00 p.m. This will be a discussion meeting to prepare for Mothering Sunday Service. There will also be a bring and buy.

W. Ponder.

**Mothering Sunday** Service in the morning will have the children taking part, and we hope it will be possible for them to give a posy of flowers to their mum, together with a card. In the evening, The Rev. Valerie Rushton from St. Paul's, Stockingford is the preacher. She is also the chairlady of the Deanery Mothers' Union. Winnie Ponder, our outgoing leader, will introduce Marie Cove to be admitted as the new leader of Ansley branch of the M.U. Two new members will also be enrolled.

**There are two meetings** of the Parochial Church Council this month. March 2nd will be the usual business meeting; March 23rd will be the presentation of the Church accounts for 1994. This gives the opportunity for the accounts to be altered, if necessary, before the Annual General Meeting. April 6th is the date arranged for the A.G.M. All these will be held in Ansley Village Church Hall.

#### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

**Funeral** "Whoever believes in Me shall not perish" John 3.16.

Jan. 27—Laurenza William Hicks, 61 years, of Birchley Heath.

#### **Funeral at the Crematorium**

Feb. 2—Elizabeth May Osborn, 75 years, of Ansley Village.

#### **Funeral at Hollycroft Evangelical Church, Hinckley**

Feb. 13—Aaron Kenneth Bowen, 66 years, of Ansley Village.

**We offer our sincere sympathy** to the family of Lauri Hicks; to Dorothy his wife and to Neale his son. Mr. Hicks was well known in the community for his service to the local schools and on the Parish Council.

Also to the family of May Osborn, Eric her husband, Diane and Alan, daughter and son. May came from Arley, She was a very lively, pleasant and friendly person, Married to Eric in 1955. She will be greatly missed by both family, friends and neighbours.

Ken Bowen worshipped at two centres. At our own church, he had been regular for many years at the 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion service, and for the past seven years he also worshipped at Hollycroft Church, Hinckley, where both he and his wife Pam came to a personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. A number from Ansley attended the service at which the Pastor spoke of both Ken and Pam's genuine faith coming through much family bereavement. "Their strength was renewed as they waited upon the Lord." Isaiah 40.31.

**Brass Cleaning/Holy Table Flowers Rota.** Since our last note concerning the "Flower Rota" we have been very grateful for the gifts of flowers and numerous donations which have helped us during those weeks when no-one had signed the Rota. Many thanks to you all!

The new list is now in the Church porch ready for this year's signatures. Any new "Flower Arrangers" are most welcome to join our "regulars." Go on—have a go—the first time is always the most daunting! Please ask if you need any help, guidance, support or just information.

Any former members of our Church community who are too frail to do the task themselves but would nevertheless like to have the flowers arranged on a particular Sunday please let us know and we'll do our best to use your donation, or flowers wisely.

Thanks again,

Miriam Richardson and Margaret Kimberley.

**To all who love Ansley Church.** As the financial year draws to its close may I, as Covenant Secretary of our church, make a plea to all those who pay taxes (even the Building Society interest ones) to seriously consider pledging a fixed rate of giving to enable Ansley Church to become more self-supporting? A pledged weekly offering of just £1 would bring in a further £17 from a Tax Rebate at the end of the next financial year.

Many members of our congregation do give very regularly I know by means of our "Weekly Offering Scheme" but if there are any tax-payers amongst those, then **please** give some thought to changing over to the Covenant Scheme—it would mean that the Church Funds could gain extra money from the Tax Rebate without you personally giving more.

The amount given can be on a weekly, monthly or yearly basis, whichever you choose. A form and further details are available from the table in Church.

Please see Margaret Antill or myself if further explanation is required. The necessary form will need to be signed and witnessed **after** 6th April for inclusion in the 1995/96 year.

**Any** addition to our present number of 14 Covenants will be most welcome. Please give it some thought.

Yours hopefully, Margaret Kimberley.