

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 849

MARCH 1996

Price 20p



Vicar:

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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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Ansley Vicarage,

March 1st, 1996

Our Dear Friends,

There are 733,000 people living in the County of Warwick and Coventry. Scattered amongst all those people there are 250 centres for Christian Worship called Parish Churches. Many years ago, they all had a leader called either Vicar or Rector; but not so at the present time, in fact there are only approximately 150 of them. That means that many Parish Churches have had to unite under one Minister.

There are 12,000 people who have registered themselves to be active and responsible church members; (that is, enrolled themselves on the Church electoral roll) within this County.

Every Church of England parish aims to offer Christian ministry to each resident within its parish, but it is not practically possible for the 150 leaders (and still decreasing in number) to be effectively reaching the 733,000 population. But it is possible, given the help of the 12,000 who have registered themselves Christians.

All this information and more, was given to 400 of us who met for a two day Conference last month. Each parish church sent at least one member to the event. We here at Ansley sent three.

If a powerful Christian presence is to be sensed in our communities (and there is no better alternative to create loving respect for people and things) all of us who name ourselves Christians are called to be no longer spectators, but a reflection of Christ. The ball is in our court. The challenge is for each one of us to take up. If we look very carefully around our parish, this is beginning to happen.

So have you ever wondered why we are able to help others, yet sometimes we are not able to help ourselves? We can solve problems for other people, yet we can't solve our own. God has a purpose behind this. His intention is to have a network of love. People reaching out in love to people rather than turning inward in self-centered concern. Love is power.

Could you imagine what would happen if God's people decided to get serious about this matter and start to bear one another's burdens, forgive one another, love one another and put one another first? Nothing could stop us!

You ask, "How does this kind of love behave?" Listen, "Love endures long, is patient and kind, love is never envious, it's not boastful or conceited; it's not rude and does not act inappropriately. Love does not insist on its own rights, for it is not self-seeking. It's not touchy, it takes no account of the evil done to it. Love is ever ready to believe the best of every person. This kind of love never fails." (see 1 Corinthians 13 v 4-8).

Imagine what would happen in the church, in the home, in the work place and in the parish if we decided to live by these principles! Ask God to let it begin in you today.

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

DIARY FOR MARCH

Saturday, March 2nd

7.30 p.m. Barn Dance.

Sunday, March 3rd

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, B.C.P.

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer, A.S.B.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, B.C.P.

Preacher: Canon John Philpott, Rural Dean of Nuneaton.

Tuesday, March 5th

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Wednesday, March 6th

7.30 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship in the Church Hall.

Guests: Don & Elaine Robinson of Challenge Newspapers

Sunday, March 10th

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Wednesday, March 13th

8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. "Prayer Day."

Saturday, March 16th

10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. "Pause for Thought." Mrs. Evelyn Angel.

Sunday, March 17th — Mothering Sunday

10.30 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion, Preacher: Mrs. Ruth Chilvers.

Wednesday, March 20th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Thursday, March 21st

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council.

Friday, March 22nd

7.00 p.m. Dine on Wheels.

Sunday, March 24th — Passion Sunday

9.45 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.15 p.m. United at St. Michael's, Arley.

Preacher: The Revd. Daniel Cozens.

Thursday, March 28th

7.45 p.m. Annual General Meeting in Ansley Village Church Hall.

Palm Sunday, March 31st

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Guest Service.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals "The Trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised"

Feb. 15—Olive May Varden, 91 years, of Ansley Common.

Feb. 21—Lottie Elizabeth Jones, 82 years, of Birchley Heath.

Feb. 22—Joseph John Beddow, 72 years, of Chapel End, formerly of St. Lawrence Road, Ansley Village.

Olive May Varden will long be remembered in our parish and beyond. She was a school teacher at Hartshill before teaching at Nursery Hill School. She worked very hard at St. John's Church, Ansley

Common, being the secretary and treasurer. Olive led the Mothers' Union for 22 years and loved organising the outings. In her closing years she maintained a positive attitude and especially enjoyed her weekly visits to the Stroke Club at Arley. A large congregation gathered to pay their respects and to give thanks to God. We offer the family our sympathy and prayers.

Lottie Elizabeth Jones had lived alone at Birchley Heath since her husband Fred died some 10 years ago. She enjoyed regular visits from her neighbours who cared for her until she was taken to a Nursing Home at Grendon. She was born at Dordon and worked for a time at Atherstone. We offer our condolences to all who mourn her passing.

Joseph John Beddow was born at Arley. He worked at the local pits until illness caused his early retirement. He served in the Royal Navy during the war. He was married to Joyce here at Ansley Church in 1957. We offer her and their sons Stephen and Roger our deepest sympathies.

The Barn Dance is organised by the **Arley Ladies** and will be held there in the Miners' Welfare Club on Saturday, March 2nd. Price of £2 includes Ploughman's Supper. Captain Tony Maidment of the Church Army will be doing some of his magic tricks. The evening commences at 7.30 p.m.

The Rev. John Philpott, Rural Dean of Nuneaton preaches at our Evening Service on Sunday, March 3rd. This is part of a series of Ley Group services during Lent on the Theme of the Kingdom of God.

Don and Elaine Robinson come to speak at the Wednesday Fellowship held in the Village Church Hall on March 6th at 7.30 p.m. They will give an account of their experiences using the "Challenge" newspaper as a form of Christian witness. Refreshments will be served during the evening. A warm invitation is given to what will be an enjoyable evening.

'Prayer Day' will be held in Church during the hours of between 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13th. There will be a list of times to which you are invited to add your name, enabling there to be a chain of prayer all day.

Pause for Thought this year is on Saturday, March 16th in Ansley Village Church Hall, commencing at 10.00 a.m. and concludes at 3.00 p.m. Evelyn Angel, from Bristol, is the speaker. She, together with her husband, has travelled extensively; and is a speaker of considerable experience, both in this country and South America. The menu for the lunch will be included on the programme, which is now on sale at £2.80.

Mother's Day will be celebrated on March 17th. There will be a posy of flowers for the children to give to their mothers at the morning Family Service, to which all families will be welcome.

At the evening service Mrs. Ruth Chilvers, from the United Reformed Church at Chapel End, will be the preacher. This service involves the members of our Mothers' Union who will read the Lessons and lead us in prayer, and will be given a posy of spring flowers.

The Evening Service on March 24th will be united with the congregation at St. Michael's, Arley. **There will be no evening service at Ansley Parish Church that night.** The service commences at 6.15 p.m. The Preacher is the Rev. Daniel Cozens. Daniel lives at Coton in

Cambridgeshire and is a nationwide evangelist. He, together with his team, was responsible for launching the "Walk of 1000 men." He is a gifted communicator.

Good News in your living room on Sky T.V. Sunday, April 14th at 2.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m., Sir Cliff Richard, O.B.E., will host a programme in which Dr. Billy Graham will preach an evangelistic message. Televised on the Sports Channel of B Sky B. If you don't have a satellite dish, maybe a friend or a neighbour does.

Dine on Wheels is once again being organised by David Morley on Friday, March 22nd. This is in aid of the Building Fund for the new room. As last time, customers will go to a different location for each course of a six course meal. Commencing in the Church Hall at 7.00 p.m., prompt where customers will be served with fruit punch and a list of addresses locating the place where each course will be, 1st address for soup; 2nd address for fish course; 3rd address main course; and 4th address dessert. Then returning to the Church Hall for coffee, cheese and biscuits. The price is £10 each, please purchase your ticket in advance because the cooks will need to know the number to cater for. Tickets obtainable from Church members and offers of help please ring David on 01676 540298. This should be, as last time, great fun and where else could you go out for a six course meal for just £10.00 ?

Margaret Antill

Annual General Meeting will be held in Ansley Village Church Hall at 7.45 p.m., on Thursday, March 28th. All those whose names are on the NEW ELECTORAL ROLL will be eligible to vote. Annual report will be given and an outline of future opportunities. Report on the financial affairs together with the audited accounts. The wardens will give their reports on the state of the buildings and churchyard. The new P.C.C. will be elected and also the sidesmen. The meeting will conclude with any other business.

There are five Sundays during this month. As usual the 'fifth' Sunday is 'guest night.' Invite a friend to tea and bring your guest to the Service. Please give your choice of hymn for that service to our Warden George. It will be a special occasion too because it is Palm Sunday. Each person will be given a palm cross either to put on your wall or used in prayer or for a bookmark.

A MEDITATION FOR LENT

WHEN I AM ALONE

When I am alone, I know You are there,
Your silent presence brings comfort to my soul.
Your voiceless words soothe my troubled heart.
I am cocooned by the warmth of Your unseen embrace.
I reach out to touch You and my palm is caressed by Your wounded hand,
Your grace grants peace to my world worn spirit.
I am refreshed by Your cup of living water,
My hunger is fed by Your bread of life.
My whole being is sustained by Your Eternal Word,
I am saved by Your precious gift of blood,
I am loved far beyond my own comprehension.

I am never alone.

Judith Wilson