

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 861

MARCH 1997

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.

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel.: (01203) 382902

Ansley Vicarage,

1st March, 1997

Our Dear Friends,

Some time ago the television news picked up the dramatic event that a small child had fallen down a nine inch bore hole.

The tragedy was made more acute by the fact that only six months earlier a lad in northern Italy had died in a similar accident. The child's parents were in distress.

Then a group of miners, who had heard about it over the radio, arrived by truck, equipped and ready to help. They knew exactly what to do, they bored a hole alongside and tunnelled in aiming to come right to where the child was stuck.

At 10.30 p.m. they were at work. The T.V. announcer assured the viewers that at any moment the boy would be rescued. The child could do nothing. At 11.30 p.m. the T.V. announcer again assured viewers that at any moment the boy would be rescued. At 1.05 a.m. a miner was winched up out of the hole with the small child in his arms. It was a very moving scene. Both the little boy and his rescuer were grinning from ear to ear. The parents were weeping tears of joy and relief.

What a great moment that was. The danger had passed. The child was restored to his parents. What good news of great joy real rescues are!

Our Lord and Saviour did that for us. But how did He do it? He did it through His death and His coming back to life again. Often, an untimely death can only be described as a terrible tragic waste. Usually death comes in its normal course in the fulness of a ripe old age. But in the case of Jesus, He was only 33 years old, death was seen as the pivotal point of His achievements. It was because of His death that we are able to be made friends again with God. Because Jesus' death is the way by which our sins can be forgiven. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

Experience and observation shows us that people have messed up their own lives. We have neither met nor read of one yet who is perfectly happy and perfectly content. We have spoilt each others lives too and have all made a contribution to the chaos in the world.

That is why mankind needs to open up to God. Jesus starts by calling people individually, "Come to Me", He says, "and I will give you rest and peace." God offers us His friendship we should be careful not to spurn it.

Ansley Church, like all Christian assemblies throughout the world will be celebrating God's glorious plan of salvation later this month. Look up in the 'Diary of Events' and see what you can come to.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 2nd — T.E.A.R. Fund Sunday

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Tuesday, March 4th

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Wednesday, March 5th

7.30 p.m. The Alpha Course. "How & why should we tell others."

Sunday, March 9th — Mothering Sunday

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer with Mothers' Union taking part.

Wednesday, March 12th

7.30 p.m. The Alpha Course. "Does God heal today?"

Thursday, March 13th

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council.

Sunday, March 16th — Passion Sunday

10.30 a.m. Family Service.
6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Wednesday, March 19th

7.30 p.m. The Alpha Course. "What about the Church."

Thursday, March 20th

7.45 p.m. The Parish Church Annual General Meeting.

Friday, March 21st

7.00 to 10.00 p.m. "Maranatha Gathering," Westwood Church Rooms, Coventry.

Sunday, March 23rd — Palm Sunday

9.45 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.
10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
6.30 p.m. Informal Service.

Wednesday, March 26th

7.30 p.m. Alpha Course. "How can I make the most of the rest of my life?"

Maundy Thursday

10.00 a.m. Children's Holiday Club at St. John's, Ansley Common.
7.45 p.m. The Service of The Last Supper.
(In the Village Church Hall).

Good Friday

10.00 a.m. Children's Holiday Club at the Village Church Hall.
7.45 p.m. Devotional Service in Church.

Saturday, March 29th

10.00 a.m. Church open for decorating.

Easter Day — Sunday, March 30th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, Preacher: The Bishop of Warwick.

Every Week in St. John's Church Hall

Tuesday & Thursday 9.30 a.m. Playgroup.

Wednesday 7.30 p.m. Youth Club.

Thursday 6.30 p.m. Explorers.

Meet for Prayer in Church 10.00 a.m. each Sunday morning; 6.00 p.m. each Sunday evening.

Every Week in the Village Church Hall

Tuesday 10.00 a.m. Senior Citizens. 6.00 p.m. Children's Club.
8.00 p.m. Youth Club.

Baptism "On the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the Church."

February 16—Gabrielle Lauren Antonia Beasley, of Bretts Hall.

Mothers' Union meeting this month on Tuesday, March 4th at 3.00 p.m. in the Village Church Hall. The speaker will be Mrs. Moreen Freestone who will speak about being "In the Specials." Everyone is welcome.

Mothering Sunday. The children will take part in the morning service. At the evening service members of the Mothers' Union will read the lessons and lead us in prayer. Mr. Ralph Rogers from Coventry will sing, and Catherine will give the sermon.

The Parochial Church Council will meet on Thursday, March 13th at St. John's, Ansley Common. When the statement of accounts for the year 1996 will be considered.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Church will be held on Thursday, March 20th in the Village Church Hall at 7.45 p.m. Those eligible to attend and vote are those who have their names on the Electoral Roll; members of the congregation and general public may attend as observers.

The Informal Service will take place on Palm Sunday at 6.30 p.m. Various members of the congregation and from the parish of Arley will be invited to take part in this hour of Worship and Praise and Testimony.

Children's Holiday Club will be for one morning at St. John's, Ansley Common and one morning at the Village Church Hall, commencing at 10.00 a.m. and ending at 12 noon. Each child is asked to bring 20p and if possible marker pens. We would value the help of parents and others who can offer their support for a couple of hours to assist with the smooth running of the event.

The Last Supper before Our Lord's crucifixion will be remembered as we gather round a table in the Village Church Hall. This service will be informal and commence with refreshments of home made soup and roll.

Good Friday events will be concluded with a service of devotion in Church at 7.45 p.m. We do well to remember in a special way the central meaning of our faith.

Saturday morning of March 29th the Church will be open. Those who would like to help arrange the Easter flowers will be most welcome. Gifts towards the expenses of this will be valued.

Bishop Anthony Priddis will be the preacher at the Easter Day evening service. This will be his first visit to our parish since his appointment as Bishop of Warwick last July.

If only someone had listened is the title of an evening of training for Children's and Youth Leaders and P.C.C. members, exploring

the issues of Child Protection with an expert. It is the responsibility of Churches to ensure the safety of children in our care. April 14th at 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at Stockingford Parish Centre. Do please make this a priority.

It was proposed at the Church Council that we look for people who will help us sponsor a child from the Third World. Any offers? Please see Barbara Lowe.

THE CROSS

They crucified my Lord that day,
that Friday long ago,
when darkness covered all the earth
and none The Christ would know.
They jeered and spat and added to
the torment that He bore
but all the while the Lord looked down
and loved them even more.

His body scarce could stand the strain,
His anguished heart was broken
and yet throughout that awful day
not one reproach was spoken.
When they had driven home the nails
and fixed them straight and true;
He said "Father forgive them
for they know not what they do."

I cannot comprehend the mind
so full of truth and grace
that could with deep compassion move
and look into the face
of those who slew Him,
No hatred or resentment felt,
no anger at the shame;
of dying like a criminal
in agonising pain.

He bore it gladly all, for us,
He thought it worth the loss,
of bleeding and of dying
and of hanging on that cross
And all we have to say is "yes"
and accept His sacrifice,
For we are not our own you see;
He bought us for a price.

Composer unknown.

This year T.E.A.R. Fund Sunday focused on the fact that 47 of the world's poorest countries will pay £14 billion to the world's richest countries.

These debt repayments wipe out many of the benefits of aid and squeeze vital spending on social welfare.

This T.E.A.R. Fund Sunday gives us the privilege to give back to the poor something of what they have lost, Dignity and hope, health care and education.