

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 826

APRIL 1994

Price 20p



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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.: (0203) 382902

1st April, 1994

Our Dear Friends,

Today it is Good Friday; the day of Jesus' Crucifixion. The event to change the world!

Soon after Terry Waite was arrested he was placed in a bare room, a flat at the top of a building in Beirut. His right ankle was placed in a lock which was attached to the wall by means of a chain; thus severely restricting his movements. A mattress was thrown into the room bound with a piece of raffia. He plaited this into the shape of a cross and secured it to the wall. For Terry this raffia cross was the symbol of suffering and hope giving him a focus in his drab prison.

Someone once said, 'do not turn from the awful horror of the cross, or you will loose the solemn power of it.'

In those days when a criminal had been condemned he was led away to crucifixion placed in the centre of a hollow square of four Roman soldiers. It was the custom that he should carry his own cross. The charge on which he was being executed was written on a board. It was then either hung around his neck or carried by an officer in front of the procession, and later fixed to the cross itself.

Jesus had undergone the terrible scourging, after that He had been under examination for most of the night. Jesus was physically exhausted, no wonder then that He staggered whilst carrying His own cross.

The place of crucifixion was a hill called Golgotha. When it was reached the criminal had to be impaled upon his cross. The nails had to be driven through his hands and feet.

So there was that group of three crosses, in the centre the Son of God, and on either side a criminal. He was with sinners and for sinners in His life and death.

The gospel writers describe the taunts and the mockery which were flung at Jesus by the passers by, by the Jewish authorities, and by one of the two criminals who were crucified with Him. The taunts all centred round one thing—the claims that Jesus had made, and His apparent helplessness on the cross. It was precisely there that the Jews were so wrong. They were using the glory of Jesus as a means of mocking Him. "Come down," they said, "and we will believe on You." But as General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, once said, "It is because He would not come down that we believe in Him." The Jews could only see God in power; but Jesus has shown us that God is sacrificial love too.

Today we can worship Him. Let us do that!

A Happy Easter,

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

DIARY FOR APRIL 1994

Good Friday

10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Children's Holiday Club, St. John's, Ansley Common.

7.45 p.m. Devotional Service at the Parish Church.

Saturday, 2nd April

10.00 a.m. onwards decorating the Church.

Easter Day

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer).

Tuesday, 5th April to Thursday, 7th April

Children's Holiday Club, in the Village.

Friday, 8th April

10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Children's Holiday Club, St. John's, Ansley Common.

Sunday, 10th April

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Tuesday, 12th April

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Wednesday, 13th April

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Thursday, 14th April

7.45 p.m. Annual General Meeting.

Saturday, 16th April

10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. "Pause for Thought."

Sunday, 17th April

10.30 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

Wednesday, 20th April

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Sunday, 24th April

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

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (Alternative Service Book).

Wednesday, 27th April

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Every Friday

6.45 p.m. Meet for Prayer in Church.

Every Thursday

10.30 a.m. Parents and Toddlers in Village Hall.

6.30 p.m. Explorers at Ansley Common Hall.

Every Tuesday

7.00 p.m. Youth Club in Village Hall.

A total of £247 was collected following the funeral of Mrs. Annis Moore. This was equally divided between the Church General Fund and the League of Friends of George Eliot Hospital, and is very much appreciated. Thank you.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism "To grow in the faith into which they have been Baptised."

March 6—Stephanie Brindley, of Ansley Common.
Thomas George Sutton, of Park Cottages.

Holy Matrimony "To love, honour and worship,"

February 26—Adam Mark Alcock, of Atherstone.
Teresa Jayne Trout, of Ansley Village.

Funeral "I will cling to the old rugged cross."

February 25—George Lockett, 69 years, of Birchley Heath.

Ansley Mothers' Union met in the Church Hall on Tuesday, 1st March. Thelma Burns was the speaker and a very interesting talk we had. The theme of her talk was water. She started at Genesis and went through the Bible discussing passages connected with water. For this I say thank you, W, Ponder

Next meeting April 12th, Church Hall,

"BIBLE COMES ALIVE"

St. Nicolas Parish Church, Nuneaton is hosting a "Bible Comes Alive" exhibition from 25th-30th June, at which display stands, costumes modelled by Exhibition staff, and models can be seen. Lectures and guided tours take place from 27th-30th June, in the mornings for schools and in the afternoons for adults. For more information, contact Derrick Kent on 0203 348899, or the parish office on 0203 344553.

MARCH FOR JESUS 1994—A DAY TO CHANGE THE WORLD

More than half of the world's nations have March for Jesus events planned for June 25th, 1994, and the number is set to grow. MFJ's UK co-ordinator Brian Clews is recruiting representatives to organise prayer in Britain's 10,000 local authority wards by organising prayer teams among churches in the different areas. It is hoped to have a prayer walk in every street. To find out more contact Dave Butler, Coventry Co-ordinator, 70/72 David Road, Coventry CV1 2BW.

FALCON CAMPS 1994

Run by CPAS, Falcon Camps are centre-based (up to 50 people) holidays for children from 8-17 who won't get another holiday. The 7-night camps are part of the work of CYPECS, the Youth and Children Division of the CPAS, and take place at six locations in England, at a cost of £70 per child. More information from CYFA Pathfinder Ventures Ltd., CPAS, Athena Drive, Tachbrook Park, Warwick CV34 6NG, Tel.: 0926 334242.

The Holiday Club at St. John's, Ansley Common is for two days during the Easter Holidays. It commences on Good Friday at 10.00 a.m., and finishes at 2.00 p.m. Please bring with you 20 pence, an empty packet of Corn Flakes, and your lunch. Drinks will be provided. The second day is Friday, 8th April same times, same things, same place.

Good Friday devotional service will be in Church at 7.45 p.m. This occasion will enable us to focus on the Cross; to thank Jesus for Calvary; to sing His praise; and to prepare our hearts for the glory of the Resurrection.

It was generally agreed that the Family Worship once per month at St. John's should commence $\frac{1}{4}$ hr. earlier in future. This makes the start at 9.45 a.m. The service, to which all are welcome, will finish at about 10.30 a.m.

Nineteen men visited many homes in the parish on Saturday, 5th March at Birchley Heath, Ansley Common and Ansley Village. The questionnaire they used contained many interesting answers, and showed that people have a variety of opinions about the Christian faith. For those who were interested enough to know more, a booklet "Knowing God Personally" was offered. 156 copies were given out. If you were not in when they called on you, or they were unable to fit a call to your house; but nevertheless, you would like to answer the questions; do please ask.

Daffodils and other varieties of flowers available now will be used to decorate the Church for Easter Day. Margaret Kimberley has kindly offered to organise the flower arrangements together with others. If you would like to give a helping hand please turn up at 10.00 a.m., onwards on Saturday, 2nd April. Donations towards the costs of flowers will be appreciated.

The Children's Holiday Club in the Village will be from Tuesday to Thursday, April 5th, 6th & 7th from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. It is called the "J" team and includes a varied and interesting programme. Can you please help us? Many adults are needed. We can find a job for you, just helping with the refreshments will be a valuable work. Can you donate any of the following items? Packets of biscuits, or Bottles of Orange (for the Children's refreshments). Also large Corn Flakes box 720 grams, Oblong or round margarine cartons 250 grams (for models). Thank you.

Please note that the date for the **Annual General Meeting** has been changed to Thursday, 14th April. Several requests were made for this alteration. The meeting will be held in Church and will commence at the usual time of 7.45 p.m. There will be a lot of business to attend to and so we shall make a prompt start with the election of the Wardens. A cup of tea will be served during the course of the evening.

George Lockett, whose funeral took place last month, was born in Birchley Heath, where he spent most of his life. He worked at the Ansley Workshops from whence he retired ten years ago. We offer our condolences to Elsie his wife and to all the family.

Pause for Thought is on Saturday, 16th April, 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., in the Village Church Hall. Make a point of coming to this special day. The speakers are Dr. Michael and Mrs. Jennie Jones. You will find their talks very stimulating. The cost for the day is £2.50 which includes a buffet meal. The special programmes are now on sale.

Our Annual Visit to Offchurch takes place next month. Commencing at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday, 7th May and ends at 3.00 p.m. Sunday, 8th May. If you plan to be with us for all of the time the full board costs £38.65. For the day visitors, the meal price list is available. Please book your place as soon as possible.