

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 766

APRIL 1989

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

Bus Timetable for 6.30 p.m. Evening Service

Ansley Village turn 6.00 p.m.

Birchley Heath Post Office 6.10 p.m.

Ansley Common St. John's 6.20 p.m.

Return Journey from Parish Church 7.45 p.m.

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel.: 382902

Ansley Vicarage,
April 1st, 1989

Our Dear Friends,

Recently, I read an account of the famous story of the mutiny on the ship the "Bounty." I suppose most people are familiar with it, but there is an astonishing sequel which is probably little known.

The mutineers made their way to the uninhabited island of Pitcairn. Their hopes of an idyllic life were not fulfilled. Jealousies and strife led to mayhem and murder. Soon there was only one of the crew left with several of the Tahitian women and children.

That man, John Adams, was converted to Jesus Christ by reading the Bible which had been brought ashore from the "Bounty." The effect of this was to transform the life of the island. John Adams began to instruct the women and children in the Bible; they met regularly for worship; peace and order were restored, and when some fifteen years later a British warship called at the island they found an exemplary Christian community. Such is the power of God's Word. What happened in the small community of Pitcairn can happen in the larger country.

Our Home Secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, said of young offenders, "It is as if, for them, neither the Old Testament nor the New Testament had ever been written." That is a tragic indictment of society and is true of many other people too in this nominally Christian land. But we cannot pretend that it is something which has just happened but for which no one in particular is responsible.

The Bible says, "Where there is ignorance of God, the people run wild" (Proverbs 29.18), and we are experiencing the truth of that today in appalling indiscipline, growing violence, and the flouting of decency and of moral and civilised behaviour in our society.

People in all walks of life are expressing deep concern about this and have called on the Churches to give a lead in the restoration of personal morality and responsibility. Christian morality can only be sustained by Christian faith; Christian behaviour by Christian belief. We cannot have the one without the other. The gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation—it alone is the spiritual power that can drive and energise any moral restoration of our society. To think it can be achieved some other way always leads to disappointment.

Martyn Luther of the 15th century put it well, "Wherever men will abandon themselves to the Word, wherever the Bible is truly accepted in an honest and good heart, a new beginning results."

May we each embrace God's truth in our hearts.

Then we shall know His Blessing in our hearts, our homes and our nation.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah

DIARY FOR APRIL

Sunday, April 2nd — Low Sunday

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Friday, April 7th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, April 9th — Easter 2

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Behind bolts and bars."

Wednesday, April 12th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship at 28 Nuthurst Crescent.

Friday, April 14th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, April 16th — Easter 3

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion. "Peter."

Monday, April 17th

7.30 p.m. Parochial Church Council in Ansley Village Church Hall.

Thursday, April 20th

Coffee Evening.

Friday, April 21st

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, April 23rd — Easter 4

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

3.00 p.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Have you any fish?"

Wednesday, April 26th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship at an address to be announced.

Friday, April 28th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, April 30th — Easter 5

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Guest Service.

The following list of Sunday collections indicate to all of us who have an interest in Ansley Church how far short of the necessary £165.00 minimum it costs to meet the basic expenses.

February	5—£117.25	a deficit	of £47.75
February	12—£130.62	a deficit	of £34.38
February	19—£111.35	a deficit	of £53.65
February	26—£ 72.79	a deficit	of £92.21
March	5—£173.76	a surplus	of £ 8.76
March	12—£ 74.13	a deficit	of £90.87

Total deficit £310.10

Each time we are short we have to dip into our reserves; that is, money put by for repairs, which means that we have less for maintenance. Do please help to make it balance.

FROM THE REGISTERS

"Though I walk through the valley of death." Ps. 23.

March 17—Norman Wilfred Shaw, aged 62 years. (Of Chapel End and until recently, of Ansley Village).

We have a guest service on April 30th at 6.30 p.m. We are invited to bring a guest to that evening service which will include hymns introduced by members of the congregation.

MRS. EDITH TRUELOVE

It is with very mixed feelings that we announce that Mrs. Truelove has resigned from the office of Churchwarden at Ansley Church after 20 years of very faithful service. She has carried out her duties as Vicar's Warden, cheerfully, with very great care and a sincere sense that she was there to help all parishioners.

During the long time the parish had no vicar (1978-1981) she arranged Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals thoughtfully and with the desire that they should be of great benefit to all the people concerned. She has organised twenty-three Flower Festivals and Ansley people from far and near meet one another at this festival and talk about Ansley and its folk as it used to be. She has kept the communion silver clean and immaculate, has washed the Altar Linen with great care, making it as white as new snow and has cleaned the Church Brass and has done the Altar Flowers when the list has been vacant for that weekend. On special occasions she made small bunches of pretty flowers from her garden for children to take home to their mothers.

Edith has now decided to retire and so make way for a younger person to carry on her work with a little more gusto that she has done. (Is that possible?)

We wish her great joy and happiness in the many years that are to come and offer to her our many thanks for the wonderful Christian example she has set to us all. She is not going to disappear as she is going to carry on living at Merrybrook Cottage. We shall still see her around the Parish.

Many, many thanks Edith !!!

She will be succeeded by Mr. David Cove of 25 Nuthurst Crescent. The village and we offer to him our best wishes for a very satisfactory term of office.

THE VILLAGE CHURCH HALL

This has now been decorated inside and looks clean and very smart. It has cost a lot of money. To help meet this cost there will be a Coffee Evening in the Hall on Thursday, April 20th at 7.30 p.m. Admission 50p. Refreshments. Mrs. Moss of the Home Workshop Organisation at Atherstone will entertain us with some mimes and things.

Come and see for yourself.

MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting is on April 4th in the Church Hall at 3.00 p.m. At that meeting we have Mrs. Harris and her Ladies Choir from Hartshill.

W. Ponder

ANSLEY LADIES' ASSOCIATION

Next meeting on Wednesday, April 5th. This will be an open evening. On Wednesday, April 19th there will be a talk by Mr. Carbutt the Chimney Sweep.

W. Ponder

A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON

THE OFFCHURCH CONFERENCE — 3rd & 4th MARCH, 1989

The enriching and happy time of study, worship and fellowship at Offchurch with twenty or so members of the Ley Group Parishes passed all too quickly.

Study group sessions, excellently led by the Rev. Michael Rees, Chief Secretary of the Church Army, were relaxed, enjoyable and appropriate for people at every level of Christian experience; they demonstrated the validity of turning to the Bible for explanation, guidance and understanding in times of spiritual uncertainty.

All lessons were taken from the Acts of the Apostles, which records the start of the Christian movement and the ways in which the Holy Spirit led the followers of Jesus.

The 'blueprint' for the Christian Church (Acts 2 : 43-47) gave insights of objectives which are equally valid for the church today. Similarly, the vivid pictures of the qualities and strength of character displayed by the early Christians (Ch. 8 : 26—Ch. 10 : 48) gave a shining example for us to try to follow.

The food was good, the house was warm, the people were nice and we all enjoyed it.

Barbara Batts.

MY VISIT TO HEAVEN, BY LITTLE AMY

Miracle tot Amy Davis, who 'died' eight times from cot death syndrome, has stunned her parents and teachers by telling how she met Jesus in heaven.

Amy, now five, was revived after she stopped breathing eight times between the ages of six weeks and 2½ years.

Now she has described how she went to heaven and met Jesus—who sent her back "because you are too special."

Her mum Pauline, of Halton, Bucks, said: "She must be telling the truth, we have never been to church or spoken about Jesus. It made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up." (from the Daily Mail).

Submitted by June Smith.