

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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APRIL 1990

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.

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Ansley Vicarage

April 1st, 1990

Our Dear Friends,

This month we shall be remembering the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ and the events that led up to the Cross.

Continuing the story from last month's letter, Pastor John said, "I felt like Christ on the cross, He must have looked down and felt the same when He saw the soldiers casting lots for His clothes; utterly indifferent to His agonies."

Knowing his end was not far away, John began to witness to the two policemen. He told them of Jesus, and how He was not afraid of death because of what Jesus had done. One of the policemen replied, "Old man, when I get to seventy and look as unhealthy as you, I won't be so afraid of death either." The two men laughed.

The long hours soon became days, yet John had to remain still. His body cried for sleep, but he must not give in to his feelings. His legs developed terrible cramps and, in shaking them, he nearly lynched himself. Soon he felt nothing in his legs, though they had swollen to twice their normal size.

His only relief was the rain. He stuck his thickened tongue out to gain a few drops of moisture. The rain also helped by washing his filthy body.

Five days passed; six, seven, still John had not toppled over and died. Eight, nine days. The word was going round the prison. No man could survive that long surely. He had been standing all that time. No food, no water, no rest. It was impossible for him to be still alive. Ten days passed, eleven and then twelve. On the thirteenth day, a huge thunderstorm broke. The sky went black and the rain poured down. His resistance was over. Through his delirium he heard a crash of thunder—a flash of lightning as he pitched forward. The rope tightened—Oblivion!

Why was someone splashing water over his cracked and puffy lips? Someone else was rubbing his wrists. His legs had been propped up on a chair and he felt the blood running back into his body and arms. He could do nothing but cry from the pain.

He became aware that it was the two policemen who were working so hard to revive him, but why? he thought, and what had happened that he had not been strangled by the rope?

The subsequent events, told next month, tell of a remarkable deliverance. Knowledge of this miracle can be encouraging for all of us, and an impetus to renew our commitment to the Risen Jesus Christ.

A very happy Easter,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR APRIL

Passion Sunday, April 1st

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. 1662 Prayer Book.
Theme: 'From the mouth of Jesus.'

Monday, April 2nd

8.00 p.m. Committee preparing for Church Army visit, at the Vicarage.

Tuesday, April 3rd

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union. Speaker: Mr. G. Tomlinson.

Wednesday, April 4th

7.45 p.m. Lent Service at St. John's,
Speaker: Dr. Greenhalgh on the work of Gideons.

Friday, April 6th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Palm Sunday, April 8th

11.00 a.m. Family Communion,
6.30 p.m. Evening Service. Theme: "On the Body of Jesus."

Tuesday, April 10th to Good Friday

10.00 to 12 noon Children's Club, Church Hall, Ansley Village.

Good Friday

7.30 p.m. Special Service, Theme: "At the Cross."

Easter Day

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.00 a.m. Family Communion,
6.30 p.m. Evening Praise.

Wednesday, April 18th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies' Bring and Buy.

Friday, April 20th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, April 22nd

11.00 a.m. Family Service,
6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Tuesday, April 24th

7.30 p.m. Meeting of the Synod.

Wednesday, April 25th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Friday, April 27th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, April 29th

10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's.

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Guest Service. Preacher: Captain Alan Price, C.A.

Theme: "Healing."

Monday, April 30th

7.30 p.m. P.C.C. Service of Holy Communion and Commissioning in Church followed by the business of the Council.

MRS. EDITH TRUELOVE

I first met Edith in 1960 when I was a member of the Church Army team visiting this parish for ten days, Terry Waite, also a member of the team, was guest at Henry and Edith's home. When Catherine and I came to look at the parish in 1985 we too were made very welcome in their home.

Now, over these past four years Catherine and I have got to know Edith more closely and found her to be a truly loyal friend. She was a very faithful member of this Church, which she loved, always in attendance at Public Worship both morning and evening. Holidays away was the only occasion when she was not present. She proved to be a very reliable person and carried out her duties as Church Warden with complete devotion and conscientiousness for some twenty years. Preparing the Holy Table for Communion was regularly done with the highest standards of excellence.

She will always be remembered for the Flower Festivals (last year was her 25th) for which she would start preparing some six to eight months in advance. She loved flowers and trusted others to make their own design depicting her chosen theme.

Edith was a quiet, sincere lady loved and respected by very many people. Her concern for those going through difficult times and her practical help and advice was very much valued and appreciated.

She never boasted or drew attention to herself, symbolised in the fact that whenever she was thanked for any work done she would say, "Well anyone could have done what I did."

Edith will be greatly missed, and we thank God for every memory of her. We shall not want to, or be able to forget her, such was the impact of her life and work upon the parish.

Our prayers are for Henry and Margaret and Anthony that they may be strengthened and blessed by the God of all grace; and that would be Edith's prayer too.

Children's Holiday Club will again take place in the Village Church Hall. Commencing on Tuesday, April 10th at 10.00 a.m. and concluding at noon each day, ending on Good Friday. About fifty children usually come, and we are always grateful for adult help with refreshments, model making, competitions, games, or just generally being there.

Films on the Holy Land will take the form of the Ansley Ladies' Association evening on April 4th by Mr. J. Paul. W. M. Ponder

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism—"We pray for the parents of this child"

March 4—Patrick John Harrison of Ansley Village.

Thanksgiving for the birth of a child

"They brought Children for Jesus to bless." Mark 10.13.

March 18—Samantha Scaife of Birchley Heath.

Sian Laura Bennett of Nuneaton.

Funerals "The Lord is my Shepherd." Ps 23

March 28—Edith Truelove, 75 years of Ansley.

The Guest Service on the 5th Sunday of this month, that is, April 29th, will give us the opportunity of meeting the other member of the Church Army team visiting our parish in September. He is Captain Alan Price. (The other member is Captain Tony Maidment who preached at last year's harvest festival), Alan will preach about healing and what God is doing in people's lives today. He hopes to bring two or three people with him from his Church who have experienced God's healing hand. Do make an effort to bring some of your friends to this special service.

Father, your forgiveness
Is more than I can grasp.
No matter how much I fail you Lord
You never lose your clasp.
Your love is more to comprehend
Than human mind allows,
I keep on sinning time again
But still you keep your vows.
Pour within me Lord your love
That I may give away
Forgiveness only you can give,
To others everyday.

RECIPE FOR CHOCOLATE BUTTONS

4 oz Margarine, 2 oz Sugar, 4 oz S.R. Flour, 1 oz Cocoa, Pinch of Salt
Cream margarine and sugar, add salt, work in flour and cocoa. With damp hands roll into balls about the size of a walnut. Mark tops with a damp fork and flatten slightly. Place on greased tray leaving room to spread. Bake at gas 4 or 350F for 8-10 minutes. Do not over bake. Leave until cold. Can be sandwiched together with melted chocolate if required.