

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 850

APRIL 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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1st April, 1996

Our Dear Friends,

Sometimes the world seems so full of violence and horror (like the events at that School last month when lives were wickedly and pointlessly destroyed) that we despair. Our lives are so fragile—and the evil hand strikes at random. Can we make any sense of it at all?

The immense tragedy of Dunblane makes us pause to stop and be silent in anguish over these lives cut short. Sorrow for those in bereavement. Anger at the man who committed this crime, and deep penitence that this is what our society has come to.

The Bible is no stranger to tragedy, to the wicked ways of humanity. It is all too familiar with the bad which smoulders within and, when once indulged, seems to release uncontrollable powers that are inhuman and even demonic.

Human freedom opens the door to the risk of wickedness. Yet if we were not free to choose we would be simply robots or machines. God has made us this way so that we may be free to love, not free to hate.

Is there nothing at all that can be said so that we are not left in desolation and hopelessness? Yes, I believe there is. Throughout the world this week the largest community on our globe—the Christian family will be focussing on the Cross and Jesus who hung there, and on the Resurrection and the victory that was won there. It is the mystery of the suffering and death of **Jesus Christ on the Cross that faces the contradiction of the presence of evil** in a world created and sustained by a living and loving God, who is actually Himself bearing the pain within our grief and our sorrow.

For there are depths in Christ's horrendous suffering where a human being will never go, and which no imaginations will ever give us a clue. No meditation, however deep, will bring us to the doorstep of what it meant for God to give us His Son. But He speaks to us of life through death, of final victory over wickedness and evil, already accomplished in Jesus Christ, a sure sign of hope in a dark and troubled world because through Him we can know this God who changes lives.

Like Charlie who lived what can only be described as a completely wild life. But was drawn to the Church Service at Cirencester by the church bells ringing. He sat bored at the back, picked up a Bible and was stunned at the relevance of a verse; John chapter 10, verse 10, where is recorded the words of Jesus; 'I am come that you may have life in all its fullness.' A subsequent chain of events led him to open the door of his life to God.

Let us here at the Parish Church join together in the worship of God who is our present help and future joy.

A very happy Easter,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR APRIL

Monday, April 1st, Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd

10.00 a.m. to 12 noon Children's Holiday Club, St. John's, Ansley Common.

Wednesday, April 3rd, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

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

Tuesday, April 2nd

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union in Ansley Village Church Hall.
This is an ideas and planning meeting with a Bring and Buy Stall.

Maundy Thursday

7.45 p.m. 'The Lord's Supper' in the Village Church Hall.
Preceded by light refreshments.

Good Friday

7.45 p.m. Special Devotional Service on the Theme of the Cross.

Saturday, April 6th

10.00 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Decorating the Church for Easter Day.

Easter Day — April 7th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, 'Early in the morning' — Colossians.
10.30 a.m. Family Communion, 'At the tomb' — Mark 16.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, 'Peace be with you' — John 20.

Sunday, April 14th

10.30 a.m. Family Communion, 'Lessons in prayer' — Luke 18.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service, 'Decline or Development'

Wednesday, April 17th

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Sunday, April 21st

10.30 a.m. Family Service.
6.30 p.m. Parish Communion, 'Retreat or Advance'

Wednesday, April 24th

7.45 p.m. The Worship Team.

Friday, April 26th

Handmade Flower Display and Demonstration.

Saturday, April 27th

Fund Raising Children's Event. Leader: Paula Scott.

Sunday, April 28th

9.45 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.
10.30 a.m. Family Communion, 'The right and wrong way to pray'
Lk 18.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service. A.S.B. 'Failure or Success'

At St. John's Church Hall, Ansley Common

Every Tuesday and Thursday — 9.30 a.m. Playgroup.

Every Wednesday — 7.30 p.m. Youth Club.

Every Thursday — 6.30 p.m. Explorers.

At Ansley Village Church Hall

Every Tuesday — 10.00 a.m. Senior Citizens

6.00 p.m. Children's Club 7.30 p.m. Youth Club.

Every 2nd Wednesday — 6.30 p.m. Explorers.

Every Friday — 6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptism "That they are brought up as Christians with the family of the Church."

March 24—Willow Autumn Harris, of Birchley Heath.

March 24—Gary David Beasley, of Ansley Village.

Funerals "We Rest on Thee"

March 14—Charles Edward Brandrick, 81 years of Stockingford, and formerly of Ansley Village.

March 22—At the Crematorium, Clara Ellen Fryer, 89 years of Ansley Common.

Internment

March 2—Thomas Willoughby Peace, 75 years, of Chippenham, and formerly of Ansley Village.

Charles Edward Brandrick passed away in hospital after an illness lasting five months; previously he had been a very active and healthy man. He was a popular person as indicated by the number of friends present at the service. We offer our condolences to all the members of his family.

Clara Ellen Fryer came from Frolesworth in Leicestershire and has lived most of her life in Ansley Common, her social life was based at St. John's. She had photographs and vivid memories of the Sunday School parade days through the street, together with so many other happy occasions that kept a large number of the community together in the knowledge and worship of God. We offer our sympathy to her two sons, who thank the Lord for a good mother.

Maundy Thursday. We shall be meeting round the Lord's Table in an informal act of worship on this special evening, 7.45 p.m., at the Village Church Hall, which will be preceded by a simple meal.

Good Friday evening service at the Parish Church, 7.45 p.m., as we meditate on the Central Event of our Faith.

Children's Holiday Clubs both at St. John's and in the Village Hall needs more helpers, please offer (1) your help; (2) Biscuits; (3) a soft drink; (4) a few Corn Flakes boxes; (5) some felt tip markers; (6) your prayers. At St. John's, Ansley Common April 1st-3rd and at Ansley Village April 3rd to Good Friday.

The Worship Team will meet in Church on Wednesday, April 24th at 7.45 p.m. This will be the opening session. An open invitation is given to all members of our Church. To guide us we shall follow the Diocesan Recommended handbook entitled "Saints in Worship."

Offchurch Weekend will commence at 10.00 a.m., on Saturday, June 22nd and conclude at 3.00 p.m., on Sunday, June 23rd. Full board will cost £35 per person. The Warden of Offchurch House and his wife will talk to us about "prayer for busy people." The programme will be very leisurely and there will be ample time for walks and relaxation in the pleasant surroundings. Day visitors will also be welcome as on previous occasions. A number of friends were disappointed we did not have this annual occasion last year so this early announcement should help many to plan ahead.

Handmade Flower Display and Demonstration by Ivy Love in the Village Church Hall on Friday, April 26th at 7.30 p.m. The entrance fee £1. A selection of enjoyable refreshments will be on sale.

Share the Good News II. This is a family day on mission and evangelism organised by the churches of Coventry and Warwickshire, being held at Aylesford School, Warwick on Saturday, April 27th, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. Elaine Storkey and Bishop John Finney are the guest speakers. Brian Nichols (Baptist) leads the worship, Bishop Terence Brain (RC) is chair. There is a full programme for children, and for young people. Also a creche. Cost: Adult £4, under 16 and unwaged £2, Family Ticket £10.

"Archbishop George Carey said recently, 'The world is changing at breakneck speed and the challenges to faith are many and profound. But there has never been a greater need or a greater thirst for a courageous and faithful telling of the Gospel.' This day seeks to address this issue. We hope you can be there."

Anyone in the Parish who cares for infirm, sick or handicapped people at home, may be interested to know that during National Carers Week (April 29th-May 5th), there will be two open days in the area to give information about carer's rights, support, benefits, etc. These will be at Mill Street Methodist Church, Bedworth on April 30th, and the Fire Station at Nuneaton on May 1st, both from 10.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m. Various organisations such as Age Concern, the Parkinson's Disease Society, Social Services and Social Security and many more will be there to offer help and advice. Barbara Batts.

For those visiting the Churchyard on Saturday, April 6th the Church will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2.30 to 4.00 p.m.

At a meeting the P.C.C. decided to make some internal alterations to the Village Church Hall, this will utilise the space more efficiently, particularly for the Youth Club and the Mums and Toddlers. It was also suggested that the kitchen, which was built over 30 years ago, should be refurbished as it had seen better days. With the aid of the Parish Council, who are particularly keen to see these and the other groups flourish for the good of the community, this work has now been done. It has made such a lot more space and looks so clean and tidy. Thank you to all concerned for all the hard work.

The Hall at Ansley Common has only recently had a new kitchen fitted and the windows replaced—what an improvement. Again many thanks to those concerned. The P.C.C. are also considering other improvements to this hall at the present time.

All this much needed work on the Church Halls in no way detracts from the proposed new room at Church End. The Halls being based near the houses, and the Church some distance away.

A room there I see will be of great benefit to the Church life. As well as being the base for the Sunday School.

The facilities, in the now wearing out marquee, are not up to the standard that people like to see in this day and age for the flower festival. I would be sorry if the flower festival were unable to offer refreshments because of the lack of hygienic facilities.

Also someone has suggested to me if we could perhaps on Summer Sunday afternoons offer a cup of tea to Churchyard visitors and passers by, in our beautiful setting, which has been done with great success at another Parish where the village is away from the Church.

I also know that everyone wishes to see the toilet facilities improved. Any donation, of any size, for any project will be much appreciated at any time.

Margaret Antill.

Vegetable Plant Sale, Friday and Saturday, May 3rd and 4th, Village Church Hall, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.