

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 862

APRIL 1997

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.

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Ansley Vicarage,

April 1st, 1997

Our Dear Friends,

Last autumn Ansley and Arley combined for an Alpha course. The word 'Alpha' means the **first** letter of the Greek alphabet. The course has that name because it is all about the **first** things to do with the Christian faith. It proved to be very enjoyable, so it was repeated again and concluded last month.

These courses are becoming increasingly popular all over the country. Conferences introducing the course to leaders, like the one at Westminster Roman Catholic Cathedral in May, are so over-booked that expanding arrangements are having to be made.

Its popularity is growing in leaps and bounds and has extended to many countries and its literature translated into fifteen languages.

Many people write to Nick Gumbel, who is the author of the literature, to say how the course has helped them. One such letter is from an eighty-eight year old lady, widow of the late politician Rab Butler. She writes, "I look forward to our weekly group with avidity and come away filled with joy and amazement. At the age of 88, I have from childhood been a Churchgoer, but suddenly you and Alpha have made everything I thought I new so much more relevant and real. I feel that these videos to be of such immeasurable value that all the world should see them."

Police Officer Steve Diddams, a Chief Inspector in Croydon, writes, "I didn't see any reason for religion, I was quite happy and self contained. But I had an appetite to know what this Alpha course was all about in my local parish Church.

"Everybody in the Church was doing Alpha People in their seventies and some in their late teens. The talks were excellent and personalised. The one that really struck me was, 'Why did Jesus die?' It was so enormous I have always been a very unemotional rational person but I was being affected by the presentations.

"I found myself praying, I said sorry to God, hesitated and then asked Jesus to come into my life. At that moment I felt a huge heat coming out from the centre of my chest; just radiating out. I also felt an enormous certainty. Now at 44 years and after 24 years verging between an agnostic and an atheist I have come to God.

"My wife and I are much closer now and I am at peace with myself. As a Christian, I am a better Police Officer without a doubt. I'm a more even, calmer person and I have an inner assuredness. My colleagues tell me, 'You've changed, you really have changed.'"

As our society moves into a post-Christian era many are wanting to find out more about Jesus of Nazareth especially if they can be sure of an atmosphere of acceptance without feeling threatened, judged or foolish. So I expect that there will be another opportunity in Ansley in the not too distant future.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebecca.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR APRIL

Tuesday, April 1st

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union Meeting in the Hall.

Sunday, April 6th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer. Preacher: Mr. Stan Grundy of the Gideons.

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

Sunday, April 13th

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

Monday, April 14th

7.30 p.m. "If only someone had listened."

Tuesday, April 15th

7.30 p.m. "Re-Shaping the Church."

Wednesday, April 16th

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Thursday, April 17th

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council.

Sunday, April 20th

10.30 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Sunday, April 27th

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

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

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

Monday, April 28th

8.00 p.m. Ley Group Council.

Wednesday, April 30th

7.45 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

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.

Holy Matrimony. "Wilt thou have this person till death?" "I will."
March 15—Neil David Kirkpatrick of Bulkington to Dawn Lewis of Ansley Common.

Funerals. "When all of life is over and our work on earth is done."
March 19—John Leslie Jones, 72 years, of Ansley Village.
March 20—Edward Evans, 86 years, of Ansley Village.
March 24—James William Lucas, 78 years, of Birchley Heath.

John Leslie Jones came to live at Arley in 1964 and had a mink farm. After retirement he and his wife eventually came to live in Ansley for a short time prior to their decease. We offer our condolences to their family especially to Alan, Gay and Michael.

Edward Evans 'Eddy' as he was always affectionately known has lived in the area all his life. Born in Old Arley and worked at Haunchwood and Arley collieries. After an injury he was a Midland Red bus driver and later drove a long distance lorry. His greatest pleasure was to work at Ansley Social Club where he was for 30 years, before he retired to Croft Mead. Eddy was a shy person and also had a warm and kind personality. We shall pray for Ivy his wife to whom he was married for almost 60 years that she will know the love of Christ and also for Terry their son and Jean their daughter-in-law.

James William Lucas was born at Atherstone in 1919. He served his country during the 1939-45 war, stationed in India. He worked in the hat factories and at Ansley Workshop. He married Nadine 41 years ago, to whom we offer our sympathies and prayers, and also to Stephen their son.

Here's how one person expresses their close walk with God each day.

I tell Him all my sorrows,
I tell Him all my joys;
I tell Him all that pleases me,
I tell Him what annoys.

He tells me what I ought to do,
He shows me how to try;
And so we walk together,
My Lord and I.

Or put it another way.

There's summat that pulls us up,
And summat that pulls us down,
And the consequence is that we wobble
Twixt muck and the golden crown.

There's so much bad in the best of us,
And so much good in the worst of us,
It ill behoves any one of us,
To find fault with the rest of us.

Pause for Thought an advance notice that Helen Lee will be the speaker at this year's event on Saturday, May 17th, commencing at 10.00 a.m. and finishing at 3.00 p.m. The cost for the day will be £3. This will include coffee or tea on arrival and a two course lunch. Book the date and plan to come.

Another advance notice is that there is a meeting for the whole congregations of each church in this deanery on Thursday, June 12th at Bramcote Barracks when, in addition to worship, there will be a presentation of the Patterns of Ministry report, which has at the heart of it, the concept of ministerial teams.

At 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15th, the Road Show presentation on the Reshaping of the Church for each church P.C.C. and as many other church members as possible at Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough. This is in connection with the Bishop's visit to the Nuneaton Deanery and he will be addressing the assembly.

Parents are people too. Do your children wear you down then wind you up? Is your little angel sometimes not so angelic? Do you worry about doing the best for your child? Do you think that children should come with a government health warning? Then come and share your survival tips with other parents at The Miners' Welfare Centre Club on Monday, April 14th at 7.15 p.m. and on two following Mondays. For details ring Sue Harte on 01676 542214.

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.

The meeting of the new parochial Church Council takes place on Thursday, April 17th at the Church. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 7.45 p.m. as the Council commits its next twelve months work to the Service of the Lord, prior to the business of the evening.

At our Annual General Meeting last month the following people kindly offered their services for the next twelve months.

Wardens: George Ponder, Margaret Antill.

Deputy Wardens: David Cove, Joyce Allton, Anthony Truelove.

Lay Chairman: George Ponder.

Magazine Editor: Marie Cove.

'Our Daily Bread' Bible Notes Distributor: Mandy Watts.

Verger: Raymond Hobbs.

Churchyard Trees: Anthony Truelove.

Children's Leaders: Paula Scott, Diana Kealey, Margaret Oliver, Marie Cove, Sue Pearson, David Cove.

Reports were given by Florrie Priest on behalf of the used stamps.

George Ponder—Fabric and Deanery Synod.

David Cove—Village Church Hall.

Margaret Antill—New Room and Churchyard.

Marcia Sutton—Audited Accounts.

Marie Cove—Children's Work and Mothers' Union.

Catherine Jasper—Little Fishes.

Margaret Oliver—Monday Club and C.E. Children's Society.

Jennifer Woolliscroft—Youth Club.

Margaret Kimberley—Covenants.

Barbara Lowe—South American Missionary Society.