

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 779

MAY 1990

Price 13p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

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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,

May 1st, 1990

Our Dear Friends,

I want to conclude the story of Pastor John; trusting that you will be encouraged.

"Quick!" the two policemen were shouting and shaking him urgently. "Don't die please!" John managed to clear his mind for a moment and concentrate. "Why?" he asked them. "Because we want to know how to know your Saviour Jesus," they replied. He noticed they were trembling. "But why?" he asked again. "Because He saved you, a flash of lightning cut the rope above your head just as you fell. Don't tell us that it was a coincidence."

They believed. John later recalled, "Not only did I feel like the Lord during that experience, I also felt like the Apostle Paul when his jailer witnessed the Lord's miraculous deliverance and believed."

Pastor John was later released; more out of indecision than anything else. The story had spread round the prison and he was held in some awe. The investigators had no stomach to interrogate him again and so they let him go.

John recalls that there was a strange disappointment when he was released. "I had looked forward to death, I was ready for it, and quite happy to go to heaven. I thank him for the miracle alright, and specially that the policemen came to believe because of it all. But still it's got to be harder to live down here than in heaven, and I had so looked forward to heaven."

John is still alive and living in Swatow. In 1985, four years after the delivery, he dug up the Bibles and distributed them without any difficulty. Over the years the need had worsened and the sudden availability of the Bibles eased a terrible shortage.

Did John have any regrets about the 1,000,000 Bible delivery in the first place? Was it really worth all the trials it had brought him? He replied: "I was surprised twice over the whole affair. First of all that Christians — Chinese and Western — actually had the courage and the vision to mount something so big. They did well. I was surprised again when it was never repeated. There are millions of us needing Scriptures. We must be prepared to take the risks again and again."

We can be greatly challenged to know of the value that so many people today throughout the world are putting upon the Bible. This will encourage us to read the Scriptures for ourselves, and that in turn will make an impact upon our lives.

Brother Andrew is a Dutchman, his book 'God's Smuggler' is in our Church Library and tells a very inspiring story of his life-long commitment to smuggle Bibles into countries where governments have either banned it or restricted it.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR MAY 1990

Tuesday, May 1st

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Wednesday, May 2nd

7.30 p.m. Archdeacon's Visitation at Bedworth.

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Thursday, May 3rd

7.45 p.m. Ley Group Council, Arley.

Friday, May 4th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, May 6th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion,

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer.

Preacher: Mr. David Croucher of the "Gideons."

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, 1662 Prayer Book.

Preacher: Mr. John Christie of the "Gideons."

Wednesday, May 9th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Thursday, May 10th

8.00 p.m. Sunday School Teacher's Meeting in Vicarage.

Friday, May 11th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, May 13th

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Service. "Cain & Abel."

Wednesday, May 16th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Friday, May 18th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Saturday, May 19th till 20th

At Offchurch Diocesan House from 10.00 a.m. onwards. Leader:
Captain Kerry Dixon.

Sunday, May 20th

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion, "Enoch."

Wednesday, May 23rd

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Thursday, May 24th

7.30 p.m. Ascension Day Service at St. Wilfrid's, Arley.

Friday, May 25th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday after Ascension Day — May 27th

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion, Ascension.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, "3 Bible Women."

MOTHERS' UNION

Meeting on May 1st, we will be entertaining members of Arbey Stroke Club with tea and music provided by Agnes Harris and her choir.

May 17th, Coffee Morning at Mrs. Varden's home.

W. Ponder.

ANSLEY LADIES' ASSOCIATION

Meeting May 2nd. Demonstration by Electricity Board,
May 16th, Ladies Shoe Sale.

W. Ponder.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Service of Blessing after a Civil Marriage,

"The Lord Himself Bless you and keep you,"

April 7—Adrian Williamson and Margaret Shepherd both of Ansley Village.

At the Annual General Meeting of our Parish Church held on March 26th, 1990 the following people were elected to serve for the next twelve months:

Wardens:

Frank Arnold Tel.: 392055

David Cove Tel.: 394114

Deanery Synod:

George Ponder Tel.: 392401

David Cove Tel.: 394114

Parochial Church Council:

Frank Arnold, David Cove, Margaret Antill, Joyce Allton, Kathleen Bervidge, Diana Kealy, David Morley, Sidney Moore, Margaret Oliver, George Ponder, Winnie Ponder, Florrie Priest, Richard Parker, Marcia Sutton, Anthony Truelove, Judith Wilson, Jennifer Woolliscroft.

Sidesmen:

Ken Bowen, Alan Cormack, Geoffrey Mellor, Daniel Greenway, Sidney Moore, George Hodgkins, Ian Richardson, Robert Morton, Ron Morewood, Howard Binley, George Ponder, Ian Milton, Winnie Ponder, David Cove, Joyce Allton, Richard Parker.

St. John's Committee:

David Cove, Judith Wilson, Sheila Ellard, Adrian Edgington.

St. John's Caretakers:

Tom Holland, Joyce Lomas.

St. John's Bookings:

Judith Wilson, Tel.: 396085.

Ley Group:

Diana Kealy, David Morley, Margaret Oliver.

The following people kindly continue to represent the listed organisations:

Mothers' Union: Winnie Ponder, Tel.: 392401.

T.E.A.R. Fund: Diana Kealy. Tel.: 395089.

Children's Society: Margaret Oliver. Tel.: 395674.
Bible Society: George Ponder. Tel.: 392401.
Bell Ringers: Anthony Truelove, Tel.: 94 41105.
Church Folwers: Barbara Batts.
Senior Pathfinders: Ian Milton. Tel.: 394880.
Junior Pathfinders: Diana Kealy, Margaret Oliver.
Explorers: Marie Cove. Tel.: 394114.
Climbers: Lynn Palmer, Rebekah Jasper. Tel.: 392332.
St. John's Children: Pat Matthews, Marie Cove, Judith Wilson.
Church Urban Fund: Richard Parker. Tel.: 327488.

Book your place at the Diocesan House at Offchurch for the weekend May 19th-20th. This is for our Ley Group preparation for the Church Army visit in September 15th-30th. Captain Kerry Dixon will lead us. It starts at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday and finishes at 3.30 p.m., on Sunday. Cost for full board £21.50 per person. There will be room for those who choose to come for part of that time.

A note from Henry and Margaret and Anthony Truelove.

"We would like to thank everyone who has been so helpful and thoughtful in so many different ways over these past weeks.

"Also to all those who have expressed their condolences, and to everyone who has given so generously to the **Memorial Fund.**"

H. M. & A.

The Gideons is an organisation known widely throughout this country and abroad for their work of producing and placing Bibles in Hospitals, Hotels, Prisons, H.M. Forces and to senior school children. On Sunday, May 6th it is our privilege to welcome to the pulpit both morning and evening a representative of "The Gideons." This will enable us to learn of the impact of their work on the lives of many.

Ascension Day is one of the important days in the Christian Calendar, and will be celebrated by an Evening Prayer service at 7.30 p.m. This year it is the turn of St. Wilfrid's Church, Arley to be the host. Do join us on that occasion.

On Saturday, March 31st it was our privilege to welcome Mrs. Helen Lee once again to speak at the "Pause for Thought" Day in our Village Hall. This time both the gentlemen as well as the ladies were invited; about fifty of us were in attendance. The three talks Helen gave to us during the day were on the theme of Coming to Jesus; listening to Jesus; and living for Jesus.

Very many expressed genuine appreciation of the ministry and that it had been a great help to them personally.

In addition to the ministry and worship, we all enjoyed a very handsome meal, prepared by the ladies. The hall was flower decked and the central heating made for a welcoming atmosphere. Many thanks to all involved in the preparation.

Another similar event is already being talked about!