

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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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,  
May 1st, 1993

Our Dear Friends,

One of the many lessons learnt by the team visiting the Philippines in November last year was the blessings that come from having an ability to praise God even when things go wrong.

300 years ago a man called Martin Rinkart learnt the same lesson. He was a German preacher, and a poet too, who lived in the 16th and 17th century. During the thirty years war, which was raging at that time, he faithfully served his congregation in the Saxon city of Eilenburg. That walled city became a place of safety and security for those escaping the horrors of the war. But the crowded conditions produced a plague which eventually devastated the place. Martin Rinkart lost his wife and most of his colleagues, and this left him the only pastor in the city to cope with the crisis.

He regularly had 40 to 50 funerals a day during the most critical and difficult times. Then famine followed the plague and again Rinkart worked tirelessly to comfort and relieve the hungry.

The remarkable reaction in all this suffering, devastation and bereavement was Martin Rinkart's attitude. It was one of thanksgiving and praise; and at such a time as this he was able to write the hymn "Now thank we all our God." It was the hymn sung at his wife's funeral. It was also the National celebration hymn sung in Westphalia at the end of that 30 years war. It also became the habit to sing it as a grace before meal times.

In 1930 when America was fighting the grip of economic depression, the American Advancement of Atheism raised a strong protest against the keeping of the annual Thanksgiving Day, which is commemorated on the third Thursday in November. They claimed that in a country where thousands were without jobs there could be no reason for thanksgiving. Millions, however, ignored their protest and gathered in their homes as usual to give praise and gratitude to God for His blessing upon their lives. How sad that phrase sounds to the ear: "No reason for thanksgiving."

No reason for thanksgiving? Away with the suggestion! We thank God for the air we breathe, the light by which we see, the kiss of devotion upon the lips of a mother or wife, the cry of a new-born baby, the smell of newly-mown grass. Let us in this disturbed, confused, turbulent and God-denying generation meditate on the goodness of our God until we build inside our soul a tower of praise and thanksgiving; above all for His inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Why not do that—using that hymn to express the words you want to say.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.



## DIARY FOR MAY

### Sunday, May 2nd

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion,
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer A.S.B.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, 1662 P.B.

### Tuesday, May 4th

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

### Wednesday, May 5th

- 7.30 p.m. Archdeacon's Visitation at Chilvers Coton at which our Churchwardens will be admitted.

### Thursday, May 6th

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

### Friday, May 7th

- 6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

### Sunday, May 9th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion,
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

### Wednesday, May 12th

- 7.30 p.m. Renewal Service.
- Speaker: Pastor Ed Fernandez.

### Thursday, May 13th

- 7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting held in the Portacabin, Church car park.

### Friday, May 14th

- 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. Bedding Plant Sale and refreshments in the
- 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. Village Church Hall.

### Sunday, May 16th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

### Monday, May 17th

- 7.30 p.m. Ladies Evening, Christ Church, Coventry.

### Wednesday, May 19th

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

### Ascension Day — May 20th

- 10.30 a.m. Mothers' Union Coffee Morning.
- 7.30 p.m. United Service at St. Michael's, Arley.

### Friday, May 21st

- 7.30 p.m. Renewal Service at St. James, Tile Hill.

### Sunday, May 23rd

- 10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's.
- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, A.S.B.

### Friday, May 28th

- 6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

### Pentecost Sunday, May 30th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Guest Service.

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

**Burial**—"A day is coming when all who are in the grave shall hear the Voice of the Son of Man."

April 7—Elizabeth Hamilton McCulloch, 79 years, formerly of 'Croft Mead,' Ansley Village.

### Funeral

April 22—Arthur Locke, 83 years, of 'Croft Mead,' Ansley Village.

**The Diocesan Conference** is being held this month May 9th to 11th at Swanwick, Derbyshire. Representatives from each parish in the Diocese will be attending.

**It will be St. Michael's Church**, New Arley's turn for the Special Ascension Day service of Praise and Prayer this year, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Old Arley Methodist Church will be joining in together with the Church at Fillongley as well as Ansley.

**Confirmation**, this will be held in our Church on Sunday, October 31st at 6.30 p.m., by the Rt. Rev. Simon Barrington-Ward, Bishop of Coventry. Preparation classes will be arranged soon. All enquiries for Confirmation please at the Vicarage.

**Coventry Diocese 75th Anniversary Festival Eucharist**, will be held on Sunday, September 19th at 11.15 a.m., at Stoneleigh N.A.C. A special bus is booked to transport us for the Service. Music is being composed for this event by Paul Leddington Wright, director of music at Coventry Cathedral. He writes, 'For this service we shall need as large a choir as possible, a full orchestra, plus rhythm section (drum kit and bass guitar). Additionally, we will need a music group to lead some worship songs prior to the start of the worship. The music will consist of hymns, songs, the new Mass, chants and anthems and will all be contained in a special commemorative book. The music will be available in June and rehearsals will take place in September.'

If you are interested in joining the choir or orchestra please let us know as soon as possible.

**The weekend at Offchurch** was enjoyed by just over twenty of us. Challenging and enlightening teaching was presented to us by the Rev. Gervaise Angel. Excellent accommodation and very good food together with Christian fellowship made for a worthwhile occasion. Plans are already being made for next year. The dates booked are May 7th and 8th, 1994. Reserve the dates in your diary and plan to join with us.

**Peter and Lyndy Valentine**, the South American missionaries we support, are stationed in Chile. They write, "The cooler nights of Autumn are drawing in as the children return to school after the summer break. It feels strange to be starting back in March. The summer break gave us as a family the opportunity to get out into the mountains close to some huge volcanoes. Swam in lakes and rivers and picnicked on a black sand beach of the Pacific Ocean. The twins are doing well and growing fast, both are now more than 11 lbs." A complete account of their work can be seen in their letter on the Literature Table.

**The Architect** Mr. John Holmes spoke at our April P.C.C. and outlined his suggestions to replace the Porta-cabin and modernise the toilet. Briefly they are as follows, To bring the Holy Communion Table forward to the position it occupied prior to 1750. Screening off the top Chancel to create a room with an access on the north-side and stairway leading to the Crypt; and an added room with toilets. A copy of these plans can be seen in the Church. At our May P.C.C. we shall discuss the need to set up a building committee which will advise the P.C.C.

**Flower Sale** and bedding plants of a wide variety will be on sale at the Village Church Hall on Friday, May 14th from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. and from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. David Cove is kindly organising this event. Please contact him if you want to help in any way.

**Jennifer Rees Larcombe** will be telling her own fascinating story of her healing experience at a special Ladies Evening at Christ Church, Coventry on Monday, May 17th at 7.30p.m. Tickets are on sale price £2.50, which also includes refreshments. Catherine has a number of tickets available.

**Renewal Service** will be held in Church on Wednesday, May 12th, commencing at 7.30 p.m. As mentioned in last month's magazine, we are privileged to have, as our guest speaker, **Pastor Ed Fernandez** of the 'Lift Jesus Higher' Church Iloilo City in the Philippines. He is well known in his own country and has a daily radio broadcast programme. Leading us in the ministry of worship will be the Music Group from St. Mary's Church, Atherstone under the direction of their Vicar The Rev. Paul Harris.

**Ansley Mothers' Union** meet on Tuesday, 4th May at 3.00 p.m., in the Village Hall, Holiday films and talk by Miss M. Daft.

May 20th Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy at the house of Mr. & Mrs. Salsbury, 4 IZONS Croft. Anyone welcome, Transport can be provided.  
W. Ponder

**Ansley Ladies** meet on Wednesday, 12th May at 8.00 p.m., in the Church Hall, Social evening.

May 26th Ramble 7.30 p.m. Church Hall, Please come and join us.  
W. Ponder

**Sycamore Tree** Christian Bookshop is holding a Grand Book Sale on Saturday, 1st May from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at the U.R.C. Hall in Coventry Street, Nuneaton. Some books will be sold at less than half price.

**The Guest Service** will be on the fifth Sunday evening of this month at 6.30 p.m. It will be on Whit Sunday and so have a special significance to the coming of the Holy Spirit. The suggestion box will be on the Literature Table to enable you to place your choice of hymn. The theme will be "The Holy Spirit Today."