

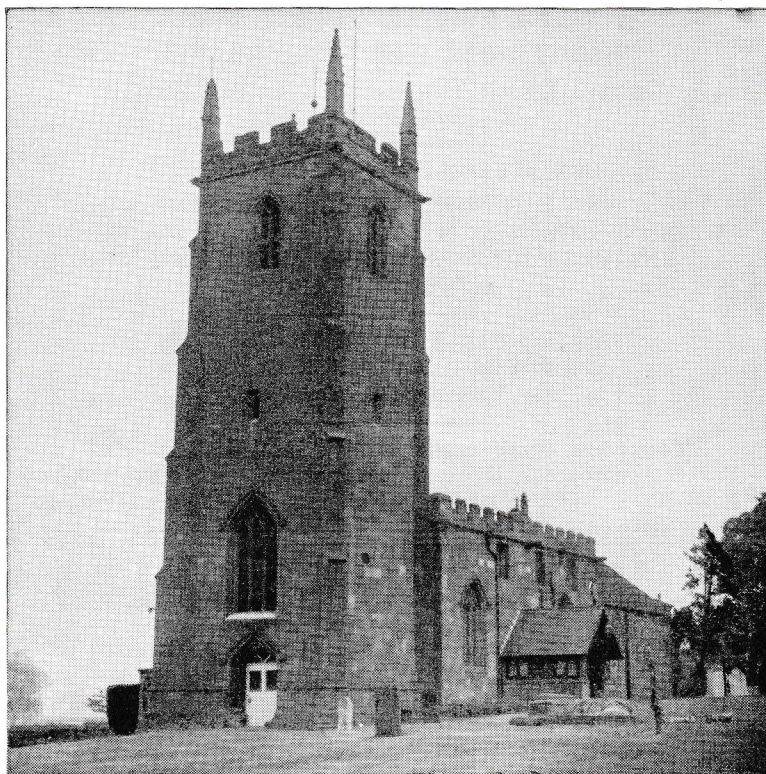
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 827

MAY 1994

Price 20p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

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 May, 1994

Our Dear Friends,

The nineteenth-century French artist, Paul Gustave Doré lost his passport while travelling in a foreign country. At the next international border he explained his problem to the border guards who in turn passed on these details to an immigration officer. This official was a cultured man who appreciated fine art and had wide knowledge of Doré's works but had never met the man and therefore didn't recognise him. Doré tried in vain to assure him that he was indeed the well-known painter. Finally the officer handed Doré a piece of paper and pencil with the words 'You say you are Doré? prove it!'

Within a few minutes Doré produced such a brilliant sketch that the official no longer doubted his identity. He knew that he was exactly who he claimed to be.

Such was the life of Jesus. A perfect masterpiece that proved that He is who He said He is. To the disciples He said, "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father." Jesus was saying that in His own life and personality He was revealing all of God's character and nature that was possible and necessary for a human being to see and know. In other words, He was claiming to be God.

If His teaching was breathtaking, so were His miracles. What we could call His dramatised claims. The Gospels tell of Him healing the blind, the deaf, the dumb, the lame, those with leprosy and the paralysed—in fact curing every disease and sickness. He raised the dead. He fed the hungry. He calmed the storm.

Finally Jesus voluntarily died in the place of others. He became as accountable for their sins as if He had been responsible for them. He died in the place of sinners, taking upon Himself God's holy anger and judgement. As a result, God forgives the sinner for whom Jesus paid sin's death penalty.

On Easter Day we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Acts chapter 2 verse 24 states that it was impossible for death to keep a hold on Him. Impossible because as God, Jesus had authority to lay His life down and authority to take it up again.

On Thursday the 12th of this month we celebrate Ascension Day. The day Jesus returned to His Father. The dramatic events of that day guaranteed the Holy Spirit's powerful arrival ten days later. No clearer evidence of these facts are needed than those witnessed by believers today.

The answers to the questions asked to our parishioners by the team of visiting men in early March indicate that many of us have little knowledge of Jesus. Most are like the official failing to recognise Doré. Appreciate His credentials and, like disciple Thomas, worship with the words, my Lord and my God.

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

DIARY FOR MAY 1994

Sunday, May 1st

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer using the A.S.B.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer using the 1662 Prayer Book.

Tuesday, May 3rd

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Wednesday, May 4th

- 7.30 p.m. Archdeacon's Visitation.

Friday, May 6th

- 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Day of Prayer in Church.

Saturday, May 7th & 8th

- 10.00 a.m. Ley Group Weekend.

Sunday, May 8th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Songs of Praise. Preacher: The Rev. Jackson Kasozi.

Wednesday, May 11th

- 8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Thursday, May 12th — Ascension Day

- 7.45 p.m. Evening Service. Preacher: Miss Thelma Burns.

Sunday, May 15th

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

Monday, May 16th

- 7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council.

Wednesday, May 18th

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Friday, May 20th

- 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Plant Sale and Refreshments.
- 7.30 p.m. Renewal Service, St. James, Tile Hill.

Saturday, May 21st

- 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Plant Sale and Refreshments.

Sunday, May 22nd — Pentecost

- 9.45 a.m. Family Service, St. John's, Ansley Common.
- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (Alternative Prayer Book).

Wednesday, May 25th

- 8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Sunday, May 29th — Trinity Sunday

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

Every Thursday 10.30 a.m. Mums & Toddlers, Village Church Hall.

Every Thursday 6.30 p.m. Explorers 4 yrs. to 12 yrs. St. John's, Ansley Common.

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

The Parochial Church Council meets in Church at 7.45 p.m., on Monday, May 16th. Because it is the newly elected Council, we commence with the service of Holy Communion before we proceed with the business of the Council.

On Saturday, May 14th Olive Varden celebrates her 90th birthday. We join with her many friends in congratulating her and pray that God will give her His richest blessing.

Plant Sale & Refreshments takes place in the Village Church Hall over two days, Friday, May 20th and Saturday, May 21st each day commencing at 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. It is expected that there will be a wide variety of plants for sale. If you have any plants you would like to contribute do please bring them along. David Cove, 28 Nuthurst Crescent, is organising this event and will be pleased to receive your offers of help.

St. James Church, Tile Hill Lane is the venue for the next Renewal Service, 7.30 p.m., Friday, May 20th, Nick Cuthbert is the speaker on the subject of 'Living together in unity!' The information paper states that churches in places where there is dramatic growth and revival seem to share one thing in common, they have come out from their defences and joined together in prayer, worship and witness. How can we see God commanding blessing on our city, country and nation? and is deeper unity a key? Nick is a popular 'Focus' speaker, and has travelled widely and seen—at first hand—churches growing rapidly. He led the Riverside Fellowship in Birmingham.

You may like to go along to Atherstone Memorial Hall, Long Street on Saturday, May 14th at 7.30 p.m. There is a 'Black Gospel Concert' with what the poster calls the dynamic John Grey and Gospel Choir from the New Testament Church of God, Birmingham. Tickets £4.00 are on sale at the Sycamore Bookshop in Nuneaton. For any enquiries concerning this concert ring 0827 715067.

Confirmation takes place this year at Corley in November. If you are thinking seriously about being Confirmed do please let us know as we plan the lessons of preparation and arrange the dates most convenient for the candidates.

There was a retiring offering made at each of the services on one Sunday last month to help towards the rebuilding repairs of St. Chad's Church Hall, Woodend, Coventry. This amounted to approximately £20 and has been sent to the special appeal address at St. Chads. Thank you to all who made a contribution.

You will be pleased to know that the five day Easter Holiday Club in the parish attracted 65 children. Not all 65 attended each day. Nevertheless we were glad that there was such an interest both from the children and also a number of parents and helpers without whose help the club could not have been the success over the two days at Ansley Common and the three days in Ansley Village that it was.

Pause for Thought proved to be just that for the 50 or so that attended the stimulating and challenging talks given by Dr. Mick & Mrs. Jennie Jones. An excellent team of ladies worked hard to prepare a most splendid lunch. It was all in all a good day. Food for mind, body and soul.

Funeral — The Lord is my Shepherd
April 20—Martha Elizabeth Milward, 84 years, of Woodburn Farm, Ansley.

At the Annual General Meeting George Ponder was re-elected Churchwarden and Margaret Antill was elected Churchwarden, both to serve for the next twelve months. To assist them as Deputy

Wardens Joyce Allton, Anthony Truelove and David Cove. We congratulate them and pray that working together as a team we may be able to go forward in a positive direction. Reports were given of all the activities of the Church and the progress during the past year, and some hopes and expectations for the future.

The Archdeacon's Visitation this year takes place at St. Paul's Church, Stockingford on Wednesday, May 4th at 7.30 p.m. During this service our two Churchwardens will be commissioned to serve as the Bishop's representatives in Ansley parish for the next year. They will also be given a 'Charge' that is to say, a list of responsibilities as the current situation demands, for them to work out during their term of office. This service is open to anyone who would like to attend. The more of our parish that is represented the better, I know too that our Churchwardens will be encouraged to see you.

The Day of Prayer again takes place this month on Friday, May 6th from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. The Church will be open for you to drop in and enjoy a time of quiet private prayer. Some came with their Bible to read, whilst others read a devotional book. Others prefer just to sit. Whatever your style do come for a short or long stay. It would help us to know of those who plan to come for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour or perhaps an hour or even more, in order for us to be sure that the Church is manned for the whole time. For those, there is a time list, please add your name for when you plan to come.

Lay Group Weekend takes place once again at the Diocesan Centre at Offchurch. Saturday, May 7th commencing at 10.00 a.m. and concluding at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday, May 8th. Full board £38.65. Day visitors meals, Lunch £6.50, Dinner £8.00, Coffee and Biscuits, etc, 80p. Our guest speaker is The Rev. Gervaise Angel who will tell us "How best to use our Bibles."

Songs of Praise service, Sunday, evening May 8th. We shall welcome members of the congregations of Corley, Arley, Fillongley. Our guest preacher will be The Rev. Jackson Kasozi who comes from Uganda. He is spending a time in our country whilst doing some extra studying at Birmingham University. There is an article about him, together with his photograph, in the April issue of the Diocesan paper 'The Diamond.' We look forward to welcoming him.

Ascension Day service will be on Thursday, May 12th at 7.45 p.m. Miss Thelma Burns will be the preacher. She worked with the Anglican Church in Uganda until recently, and has wide experience. For this service we shall be joined, as is our tradition for this service, by members of Arley Methodists; and St. Wilfrid's & St. Michaels.

The funeral of Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Milward took place on Wednesday, April 20th. She was the mother of Jennifer Woolliscroft.

Martha was born in Derbyshire. In 1935 she was married, and with her husband Harold, lived at Snelston. Eventually retiring to Overseal and Hartshill. They always played a leading part in the local churches in each place where they lived. Martha was a very gentle, kind, and sincere lady; greatly loved and respected.

We offer the Woolliscroft family our deepest sympathy.