

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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**Vicar:**

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

**Honorary Church Army Evangelist:**

Mrs. CATHERINE A. JASPER

The Vicarage, Ansley Village, Nuneaton CV10 9PS  
Telephone: Chapel End 396403

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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,

1st May, 1996

Our Dear Friends,

A wealthy man hired a builder to build a house for him. He put £250,000 into the bank for the project and left the country promising to return in eighteen months. By using inferior materials the builder was able to build the house for half the accepted estimate and pocket the remainder.

Eighteen months later as they walked through the house, the wealthy owner suddenly turned to the builder and said, "This house is a gift from me to you. It's a token of my appreciation for you and your family. You built it, now you can have the joy of living in it."

In the years that followed, the builder would lie in bed at night and listen to the rafters creaking, the roof leaking, the basement flooding, and remember those words, "You built it, now you can have the joy of living in it."

Your life is your house. It was said at the conclusion of the sermon on the mount, "He that hears these words of Mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. When the storm came the house did not fall because it was built on rock. But anyone who hears these words of Mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. When the storm came that house fell. What a terrible fall that was!"

What materials have you chosen with which to build your life? It is the way we cope with the unexpected storms that hit us, the problems that confront us, and the fear that cripples us, that reveals the stuff we are made of.

Take Terry Waite for instance. When that 'storm' came so unexpectedly he was enabled to stand firm. He strengthened his will by fasting—he refused all food for at least a week, and he made three resolutions to support him through whatever was to come. No regrets, no sentimentality, and no self pity. At the conclusion of his ordeal he was able to say, on more than one occasion, that he was truly happy to have discovered that neither suffering or solitude need destroy but can be both creative and constructive. Also, on reflection, he knew that God had been good to him and those whom he loved.

A very different example is that of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Her life has been described as "Something Beautiful for God." Home life, when she was a child, was an exceptionally happy one. Yet, when she gave her life to Christ and through Him to her neighbour, the call of God to serve the downcast and needy won through over her reluctance to leave her loving happy home. Her whole attitude is reflected in one of her favourite sayings: 'Not I, but Christ.'

Is it on rock or sand we are building?

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.



## DIARY FOR MAY

### Thursday, May 2nd

Annual General Meeting of the Youth Club in the Village Church Hall.

### Friday & Saturday, May 3rd & 4th

10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. The Allotment Association Vegetable Plant Sale.

### Sunday, May 5th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer. Preacher: Mr. Alan Purnell, Gideon Bible Association.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, B.C.P.

### Wednesday, May 8th

7.45 p.m. Worship Team in Church.

### Thursday, May 9th

7.45 p.m. Holy Communion and Parochial Church Council.

### Friday, May 10th

7.30 p.m. Hobbies and Crafts in Village Church Hall.

### Sunday, May 12th

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

### Monday, May 13th

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

### Thursday, May 16th — Ascension Day

7.30 p.m. Worship at St. Wilfrid's, Arley.

### Friday & Saturday, May 17th & 18th

10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. FLOWER PLANT SALE.

### Sunday, May 19th

10.30 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

### Monday, May 20th

8.00 p.m. Ley Group Council meeting at Fillongley.

### Wednesday, May 22nd

7.45 p.m. Worship Team meet in Church.

### Sunday, May 26th — Day of Pentecost

9.45 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

2.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Pentecost Picnic at Fillongley Lodge.

6.30 p.m. Evening Service. A.S.B.

### Every Week in the Village Church Hall

**Tuesday** 10.00 a.m. Senior Citizens Club, 6.00 p.m. Children's Club.  
8.00 p.m. Youth Club.

**Thursday** 10.30 a.m. Mums and Toddlers.

### 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** every Friday at 6.45 p.m.

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

**Funeral** The Lord is my Light and my Salvation

April 1—George Willdig, aged 82 years, of Tamworth, formerly of Ansley Village.

### Internment of Ashes

April 22—Debra Kay Varney, 35 years, of Stockingford.

**George Willdig** was a well liked person in the village, his good deeds amongst many people was widely appreciated. His son-in-law, The Rev. Michael Morgan came from his Sheffield Church to give the eulogy.

**Alan Purnell** will represent the 'Gideons' when he speaks at the Morning Service on Sunday, May 5th. He will bring along a display, and explain some of the effects of the ministry of this organisation's placing of The Gideon Bible in hospitals, hotels, schools, prisons, and amongst Her Majesty's Forces.

**Our First Parochial Church Council** of the new season meets in Church on Thursday, May 9th. We, as a Council, commence the business with the service of Holy Communion.

**Hobbies and Craft event.** This is to be held in the Village Church Hall on Friday, May 10th from 7.30 p.m. There will be displays of different types of hobbies and crafts that different Ansley people have an interest. If anyone has a particular collection, hobby or craft and would like to mount a display or demonstration please let me know as soon as possible. There will be light refreshments available and proceeds are in aid of the building fund. This could prove a very interesting evening.  
Margaret Antill.

**You are invited** to witness the welcome ceremony given by The Venerable Ian Russell to our two Churchwardens on Monday, May 13th at 7.30 p.m., at Bedworth Parish Church. We shall also hear the Archdeacon's address to the Deanery.

**Join with us** for the Special Service to Commemorate the Day of Ascension on May 16th. This year it is the turn of St. Wilfrid's, Arley. Commencing at 7.30 p.m.

**There will be a Flower Plant Sale and Refreshments** in Ansley Village Church Hall on two days, Friday and Saturday, May 17th and 18th, commencing on both days at 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. This event is in aid of the Church Hall funds.

**Pentecost Praise** is an afternoon event 2.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., on May 26th held at Fillongley Lodge. There will be a lively Worship Service. Games, and for the brave, the open air swimming pool will be open. Bring your own picnic.

**Bookings are now being** made for the parish weekend with the Ley Group Churches at OFFCHURCH for the weekend June 22nd and 23rd. Full details will be given on request.

**Heirs to the Millennium.** I write to invite you to participate in "Heirs to the Millennium—What on Earth are we doing to our Children?" This is an event being held in Coventry Cathedral on Wednesday, May 22nd.

I know that you share our concern for young people and hope that you will want to be part of this important event. Come and be challenged and informed by the speakers—politicians, experts and many young people. Stand with us and others to make a statement to the nation and to politicians. We are hopeful of attracting considerable media coverage and an audience of 1,500 people. A registration form is in the leaflet. Tickets cost £12.00 each, with packed lunches an extra £3.00 if required.  
Andrew Rowe, M.P.

**Giveaway Gospel.** Free copies of John's Gospel in the new Contemporary English Version are to be made available nationwide as part of an evangelistic outreach by the country's Christian bookshops. The Bible Society and STL will also be distributing the Gospels at cost price in packs of 50 to interested churches. For information contact Dawn Prosser 01783 418100 or Steve Bunn 01228512512.

**The Churchyard.** Following a directive from the Archdeacon the Churchyard trees have been inspected. Work of pruning, removal of dead wood and thinning of the Lime Trees at the crown is essential for their preservation.

Work will be commenced after we receive a faculty to authorise procedure. This will cost approximately £700 to £800.

In addition to extending the life of the trees, this work will also improve the appearance of the Churchyard, Margaret Antill.

**You will be pleased** to know that the five day EASTER Holiday Club in the parish attracted 49 children. Not all 49 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 three days at Ansley Common and the three days in Ansley Village that it was. Thank you too for biscuits and soft drinks and cardboard boxes provided.

#### HYMNS

When life is dull and days are dim  
I sing a good old fashioned hymn  
I sing of praises to my Lord  
I sing in old and peaceful word,

I sing of Christian souls of old  
Who fought the fight so good and bold  
I sing of angels and shepherds told  
Of Kings' gifts of Frankinsence, Myrrh and Gold.

I sing of birth, death and new life  
And all about the woe and strife  
My voice soars on with endless song  
Enough to last the whole day long.

Now I sing of harvest Fair  
Of God's great love, good news and care  
Of ploughing fields and reaping corn  
And still my songs are heavenward borne,

So when days seem long and tedium is rife  
Start singing praises to our Lord's good life  
Sing out loud and happy and strong  
You'll find happiness and joy all day long.

No greater story in song can be told  
No greater Lord for young and old  
No greater gift, that gift of love  
So let your praises rise to Him above.

Marie Cove.