

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

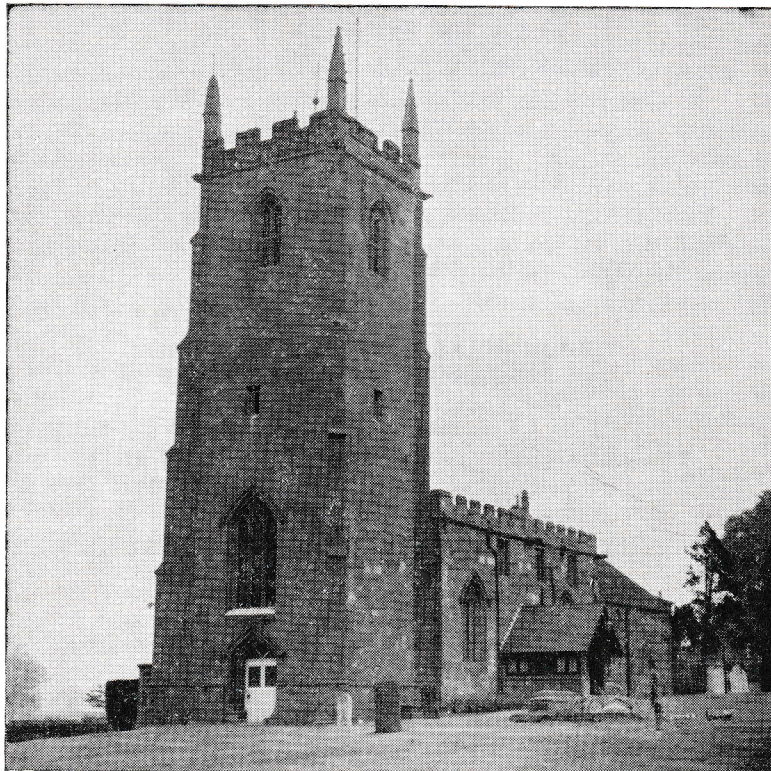
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**Vicar:**

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

**Honorary Church Army Evangelist:**

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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, 1997

Our Dear Friends,

When our nation was facing the most fierce onslaught of the enemy, I remember as a boy, the King calling our country to a day of prayer. I have since learned that that day was the 26th May, 1940, just before the evacuation from Dunkirk. That, and other deliverances were acknowledged as being from the hand of God.

Following on from that day of prayer until the end of the war, Britain, as a nation, prayed for the safety of our country and our military forces. Together with the rest of the Commonwealth a moment of prayer was observed at 9 o'clock each evening.

An imprisoned Nazi intelligence officer told his captors; "With the striking of your Big Ben clock each evening at nine, you used a secret weapon which we did not understand. It was very powerful and we could find no countermeasure against it."

At a celebration sometime after the war at which the King and Prime Minister were present, Air Chief Marshal Lord Hugh Dowding spoke of the miracle of deliverance that God in His providence had given to us.

That was no new thing. Britain has been a nation which has accepted the truth of the Gospel message and therefore has known the guiding and protecting hand of God. Much of Britain's history is a direct result of our acceptance of Biblical truth. The laws of Britain had, at its foundation, the ten commandments (which, by the way, Jesus summed up as simply loving God and your neighbour as yourself) as far back as 871 AD when Alfred was King.

It is no accident that this country has known the Providence of God for many centuries. The prayers of God's people, as the Bible puts it, achieves much. A lot of what other countries have suffered, Britain has been protected from. It is no sentimental celebration that this country remembers (even if only through the postage stamps) Columba and Augustine who, 1400 years ago, came as Evangelists to our land with the message of Jesus Christ. They, and possibly others before them, brought the light of the knowledge of the glory of God.

They taught our nation to pray. Every community has a church building—the closed ones are a rebuke to our people. In the sixteenth century came the Bible in English at the expense of the translator William Tyndale's life.

But in these present rebellious, materialistic, unbelieving days we are in danger of throwing it all away. It is very easy to rubbish a day of prayer; it is easy to take God for granted; it is easy to break away from our roots, which seemingly is what our nation is willingly doing. We need a national day of prayer for our new Government. That might not happen, but at least we who believe God can have a day of prayer in Ansley Church. Join us anytime from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Friday, 23rd May.

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.



## CALENDAR FOR MAY 1997

### Sunday, May 4th

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Preacher: Mr. Ralph Rogers.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

### Tuesday, May 6th

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

### Thursday, May 8th — Ascension Day

- 7.30 p.m. An Informal Worship led by Bedworth Christian Centre Music Group. Speaker: Mr. Andrew Bromley.

### Friday & Saturday, May 9th & 10th

- 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Bedding Plants Sale in Ansley Village Church Hall.

### Saturday, May 10th

- 9.00 a.m. Pathfinders Canal Trip.
- 7.30 p.m. 'An Evening of Music' in Church.

### Sunday, May 11th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Informal Worship led by Arley Music Group.

### Wednesday, May 14th

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

### Thursday, May 15th

- 7.45 p.m. The Parochial Church Council Meeting in Ansley Village Church Hall.

### Saturday, May 17th

- 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. "Pause for Thought" in Ansley Village Church Hall.

### Sunday, May 18th — Pentecost

- 10.30 a.m. Family Service.
- p.m. Pentecost Party.
- 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

### Tuesday, May 20th

- 8.00 p.m. Maranatha Meeting in Church.

### Wednesday, May 21st

- 7.30 p.m. Archdeacon's Visitation held in St. Nicolas Parish Church, Nuneaton.

### Friday, May 23rd

- 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. "Day of Prayer."

### Sunday, May 25th

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

### Wednesday, May 28th

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

**Marriage** 'Submit yourselves to one another' Ephesians 5 21.

April 5—Craig Eric Porter of Preston to Leala McLean of this parish.

**Funerals** 'I walk through the valley of the shadow.'

April 4—Ben Johnson, aged 60 years, of Ansley Village.

April 7—Helen Byefield, aged 91 years, of Nuneaton.

April 14—Agnes May Bazeley, aged 84 years, of Tunnel Road, Ansley.

**May Bazeley**, with her husband Alf, was a regular member of our morning congregation for many years. Even when they were into their seventies they would come on their motorbike. May was always a lively person and ready for a joke! They knew the sorrow of losing their son Peter ten years ago and more recently their daughter Jean. We pray for the rest of the family, especially Joan that they will know the peace of God.

**Helen Byefield** was very gifted in making toys. She loved to use this gift in raising money for Churches, even just several weeks before she died. When she lived at Ison's Croft she formed a sewing team raising money for various items for the Church here. Many will remember her for her industry. We remember her daughter Ann and all the family in prayer.

**Ben Johnson** came from Durham. He served in the R.A.F. He also worked at the Pit and at Dunlop. Owing to illness he took early retirement. We remember his wife Ann in her bereavement.

**Maranatha** meets in our Church on Tuesday, May 20th at 8.00 p.m. This is a public meeting to which everyone is welcome.

**The Senior Citizens Club.** The members of the Senior Citizens Club have recently had some welcomed news. They have received a "one off" payment of £300 from the Nuneaton Area of Warwickshire County Council's Community Education Service. These funds are to enhance the social opportunities of the members, i.e. supplement members towards the cost of trips, the cost/expenses of speakers and the hire or purchase of games, etc. The existing members are now working out in more detail the activities that could be undertaken now these funds have been received.

New members and visitors are always welcome, please come on a Tuesday morning between 10 and 12 to the Village Church Hall. The cost of a cuppa, a good chat and partaking is 50p.

Margaret Antill

**As is our usual custom** the Church Wardens, members of the P.C.C., and of the congregation will be making a presentation to the Vicar and Catherine to mark their retirement.

This will be a token thank you for the time spent with us over the last 11 years. If any one wishes to make a contribution to this collection could donations please be sent to the wardens before the 10th of June.

George Ponder, Margaret Antill

**The Plant Sale.** From 10.00 a.m. till 3.00 p.m. on Friday and 10.00 a.m. till 1 o'clock on Saturday, May 9th and 10th in the Village Church Hall. In addition to bedding, border, vegetable and hanging basket plants; refreshments will be served.

All proceeds will be for the Church Hall funds.

**We acknowledge** with gratefulness the receipt of £15 donation to Church funds from the funeral service of Mrs. Kathleen Berridge.

**Flowers in Church.** Many thanks to all who gave so generously towards the cost of the Easter flowers. A wonderful total of £94.26 ensured that the Church was decorated as beautifully as ever.

We are also very grateful to the nucleus of both former and present members of our congregation who regularly contribute to

the "Flower Fund." Their money is always used to provide the flowers in Church during those weekends when no one has "signed" for the Brass and Flower Rota.

A few more willing volunteers would be greatly welcomed in signing up for this year's rota. Please do so if you can!

Miriam and Margaret

**Concert for Church Funds.** A concert of light music has been arranged for Saturday, May 10th at 7.30 p.m., in an effort to boost our General Funds. It is being given by 'Champagne Flutes' (Jane and three friends) with a few other artistes to add variety to the evening.

Please do come along if you can. A generous donation instead of a specified "admittance charge" will hopefully show our appreciation to those who have given so freely of their time and talents to entertain us and also benefit our Church at the same time. Light refreshments will be served.

If anyone would like to come along but hasn't transport then please contact the Vicar (396403), George Ponder (392401) or myself (384680) so that a lift can be arranged. Margaret Kimberley

**Ascension Day Service** will be at 7.30 p.m., on Thursday, May 8th. Arley Methodist Church and Anglican Church are invited to join us. It will be an Informal Service led by the Music Group from Bedworth Christian Centre. Andrew Bromley will both lead and speak.

**Pause for thought** will be held in the Village Church Hall on Saturday, May 17th at 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Mrs. Helen Lee will be the speaker. The menu for the lunch is included in the programme, which is now available. The cost for the day is £3. The title for the talks is "Forward in Faith."

**Informal Service.** May 11th is the second Sunday in the month when the evening service is chosen to be informal and will be led by Graeme Towel and the St. Wilfrid's Music Group.

**Day of Prayer** will be on Friday, May 23rd all day in Church. Commencing at 8.00 a.m. and concluding at 10.00 p.m. If you are able to come for half-an-hour or longer please add your name to the rota. This will enable the Church to be manned all day. So that those who call to pray for a moment or two will find the Church open.

**Pentecost Party** will be held at Fillongley Lodge, the home of Mr. Ronald Potter, on Pentecost Day Sunday, May 18th, 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. The indoor swimming pool, outdoor games, lovely gardens are amongst the attractions. Bring your own picnic and the celebrations will be concluded with a short open-air service.

**The Archdeacon's Visitation** is the occasion when the Churchwardens, elected at the Annual General Meeting for the forthcoming twelve month period, are received. It is at St. Nicolas Church, Nuneaton on May 21st at 7.30 p.m., and the congregation is invited to give them their support.