

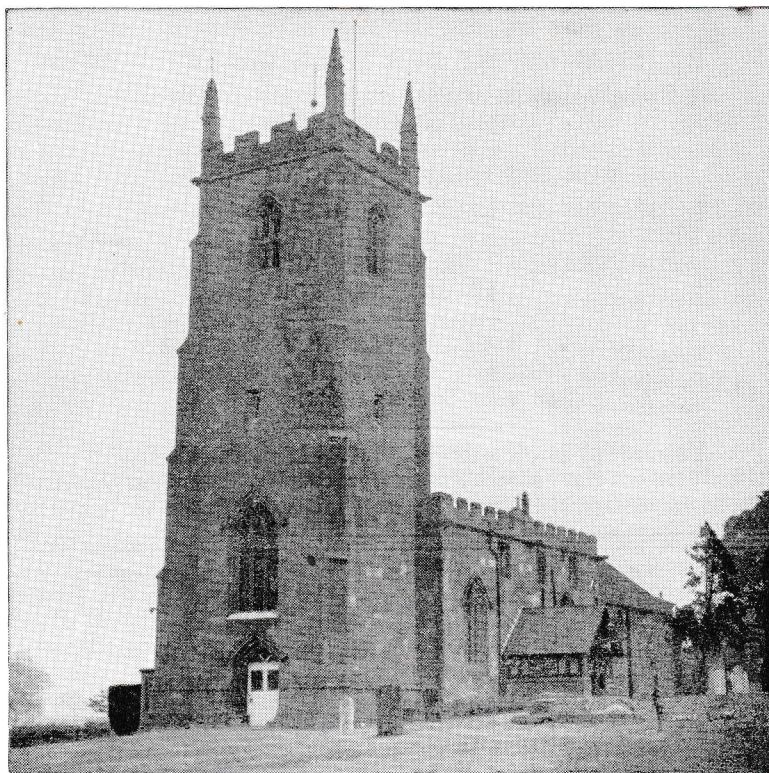
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 828

JUNE 1994

Price 20p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

Mrs. CATHERINE A. JASPER

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

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,

June 1st, 1994

Our Dear Friends,

There seems to be much confusion today about how we should conduct ourselves: Here is one of the common questions being asked, "Is there anything wrong with sex before marriage?"

As we search for an answer to that question, we can find it helpful to remind ourselves that the Bible's teaching about sexual intercourse is the life long commitment in marriage between one man and one woman.

Many people today defend the practice of sex before marriage especially in a stable relationship. Then there is the so called 'safe sex' method spoken of in magazines, television, schools, everywhere. It seems that sex has become one of the idols of our times.

It is interesting that God repeats three times the recipe for marriage, "A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they shall become one flesh." This is how God wants us to understand marriage. It is a public act of life-long exclusive commitment. The man and woman are glued together in marriage effecting the emotions, thinking, social life, spiritual life, and the physical life. God's ideal is that every child should be conceived in an act of love and commitment and grow up in that atmosphere.

Any sex outside marriage is a distortion of God's good gift and falls short of His ideal. When we see the betrayal of trust and the wreckage of families stemming from this deceit we are able to understand why the seventh commandment outlaws adultery and fornication.

Sexual intercourse is a life-uniting act and most would agree that sex and love should go together. With above all, life-time commitment to each other; as we are taught in the marriage vow, "to love, comfort, honour and protect, forsaking all others, and be faithful till death." Without this responsible expression, sex is cheapened and becomes a **life uniting act** without a **life uniting bond**.

Sex outside marriage may feel good but when God's pattern is broken people get hurt. We hurt ourselves, others, and society. Pre-marital sex increases the chances of extra-marital sex, and adultery is recognised as one major factor in marriage breakdown and consequently, family breakdown. This is one reason for the soaring crime rate.

Some couples recognise that they have lost something by living together before marriage, and regret that they did not wait.

What is the answer when mistakes have been made? Psalms 51 and 32 teach us that the remedy is not to do things to make up for it, or to make excuses. Rather it is through confession and repentance. However far we have fallen, we can make a new start in Christ.

May God guide us all,

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah,

DIARY FOR JUNE

Wednesday, June 1st

Wednesday Fellowship at the Vicarage.

Sunday, June 5th

8.00 a.m. Parish Communion.

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer A.S.B.

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

Tuesday, June 7th

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Wednesday, June 8th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Thursday, June 9th

10.00 a.m. Mothers' Union Coffee Morning.

Friday, June 10th

7.30 p.m. The Holy Spirit and Healing at Claverdon Church.

Saturday, June 11th

Nursery Hill School and Community Outing to Rhyl.

Sunday, June 12th

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Wednesday, June 15th

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Thursday, June 16th

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council.

Saturday, June 18th

3.00 p.m. The Great Cake Bake.

Sunday, June 19th

10.30 a.m. Pathfinder Birthday Service.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

Wednesday, June 22nd

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Thursday, June 23rd

7.15 p.m. Manorfield C.E. Primary School Choir Concert in Church.

Saturday, June 25th

11.30 a.m. Village Carnival.

Sunday, June 26th

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

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

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

Wednesday, June 29th

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Every Thursday

10.30 a.m. Mums & Toddlers meet in Ansley Village Church Hall.

6.30 p.m. Explorers for children meet at St. John's, Ansley Common.

Every Friday

6.45 p.m. Meet for prayer in Church.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Marriage

May 21—Neil William Godderidge of Stockingford and Joanne Louise Phillips of Ansley Village.

Funeral — "Though I walk through the Valley"

Apr. 29—Thomas Woods, 72 years, of Ansley Common.

Our sympathy is extended to the members of the family of Thomas Woods, Tom passed away at his home, 28 St. John's Road, Ansley Common. He and his late wife, Betty were greatly loved by their family, and the number in the congregation reflected the respect of their many friends.

Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy will be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Salisbury, 4 Izons Croft in aid of the Mothers' Union on Thursday, June 9th from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Transport provided. All will be welcome. W. Ponder.

Celebration Praise. "The Holy Spirit and healing" is the subject Canon David McInnes has chosen to speak on at the Claverdon Church Centre on June 10th at 7.30 p.m. Admission is by ticket at £1.00. I have a limited number of tickets. David McInnes was for some years at Birmingham Cathedral where he exercised an outreach ministry. He was a close friend of the late David Watson of St. Cuthbert's Church, York. The worship time will be led by Phil Lawson-Johnson and his music team.

Parent Wise is a monthly magazine for parents bringing up a family. It contains excellent advice; helpful articles; useful tips and loads of ideas. It sells at £1.95 and can be obtained by placing an order with us. If there are sufficient customers, it can be purchased at a reduced rate.

Children in Concert. On Thursday, June 23rd the choir of Manorfield C.E. Primary School, Stoney Stanton will be presenting a concert in church, beginning at 7.15 p.m. Proceeds from this will be in aid of Church Funds. Tickets are priced at £2 and are available from P.C.C. members.

The choir has a high standard of performance and is a joy to listen to. They have won numerous competitions and were invited to enter the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition this year.

Margaret Kimberley.

Global Care is based in Coventry, and our Bishop Simon is the Patron. It is an international children's charity and urgently needs funds to provide food, clean water, medicine and children's clothing for refugees and displaced families in Rwanda and Burundi. In addition to the problems created by the civil war they are trying to cope with the needs of 10,000 street children orphaned by Aids or victims of strife. If you can help, their address is P.O. Box 61, Coventry CV5 6RQ. Telephone: 632202.

**The Rt. Rev. Simon Barrington-Ward,
Bishop of Coventry and a patron of GLOBAL CARE**

warmly commends this emergency appeal:

"At this moment our hearts, our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Rwanda in their suffering, amongst them friends and fellow Christians such as Bishop Adoniya Sebununguri, the Anglican Bishop in Kigali. He has written to me about this appeal and I would most heartily support it and ask all those who hear it to give generously for the children of Rwanda."

We can't do everything—but we mustn't do nothing.

The Great Cake Bake. On Saturday, June 18th at 3.00 p.m., this annual event will be held on the Vicarage front lawn. You are invited to support this; taking place on behalf of the Church of England Children's Society. Homemade cakes and biscuits will be on sale and

refreshments will be served. We shall be glad of your support either as a helper or as a customer, or both. Our ambition is to be able to send to the Children's Society a donation that makes a positive contribution to their work amongst Children in Britain. The Church hall will be used if the weather does not allow it to be in the open-air.

Margaret Oliver, 33 Nuthurst Crescent, Telephone: 395674.

The Parochial Church Council meets at St. John's Church Hall, Ansley Common on Thursday, June 16th at 7.45 p.m. Items for the agenda should reach the Chairman at least three days before the meeting takes place.

Spring Clean will take place in the Church during the week commencing Monday, June 13th. On that day the building will be prepared. On Tuesday evening the high places will be dusted. On Wednesday and for the rest of the week the remainder of the place will be cleaned. If you can help, do please add your name to the list that Margaret Antill (one of the Churchwardens) will be circulating, or give her a ring 0827 874520.

Flowers in Church. The "Flower Rota" is sadly quite empty of volunteers for the cleaning of brasses and the arranging of flowers. Please do sign the list if you could help one weekend as "many hands do make light work" in this task.

Alternatively perhaps you would like to make a donation for a specific Sunday in memory of a loved one? If so still sign up on the list and put a "D" after your name and we will ensure that the communion table flowers are arranged for you if you are unable to do them yourself. The Easter donations totalled over £50 and together with a generous gift of carnations from Mr. Toon our church has been decorated since. Many thanks to all who gave.

Miriam Richardson, Margaret Kimberley.

The Garden Party is to be held on Saturday, July 9th. Our P.C.C. meeting on Thursday, June 16th will be discussing and planning this. Offers of help and ideas will be appreciated. Please convey them to members of the P.C.C. in readiness for that meeting.

The Pathfinder Birthday service will be on Sunday, June 19th. David Ward will be the guest speaker. David will be remembered for his several previous visits to our parish, both at the Church and the Ansley Village club.

On Sunday, July 3rd St. Wilfrid's Church, Arley has an informal evening service at 6.00 p.m. It will be part of their Flower Festival which is planned to take place over that weekend. St. Andrew's, Smorrall Lane, Bedworth music group led by Paul Norton will be providing the accompaniment to the singing and Paul will also give the sermon.

We here shall hold our usual 6.30 p.m. worship for those who prefer the formal 1662 Book of Common Prayer evening service.

Women's Christian Viewpoint. On Monday, June 6th we will be having our second meeting. Our venue is Fillongley Village Hall. Sugrid Mustow will be speaking and there will be a Buffet Supper for all ladies, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

St. Nicolas Church, Nuneaton is holding an exhibition organised by the Church Mission to Jews, commencing on Saturday, June 25th and daily to Thursday, June 30th.