

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 817

JULY 1993

Price 13p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

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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

1st July, 1993

Our Dear Friends,

The B.B.C. newsreader, Martyn Lewis, has recently drawn attention to the fact that we need to hear good news. Here are two items worth telling on his programme.

The first comes from the former Yugoslavia and centres around the city of Vukovar. Earlier this year the Serbian army surrounded the city. During this siege a young Serbian sniper was ordered to shoot anybody who came out of their house. As he was surveying houses from his hiding place, he spotted two women in their living room kneeling and praying. He watched them for days. When they went out to fetch water he did not shoot. Finally, when the Serbian Army stormed the city he went straight to the house of the two praying women and told them that he could have killed them at any time but did not do so because they were praying. They spoke to him about the Lord Jesus and of how Jesus could change his life; eventually they led him to open the door of his life to Christ.

Sometime later he told this same story in one of the churches whilst standing between those two Christian ladies who led him to the Lord. When he was asked if he was going to shoot people again, his answer was that he has put down the gun and will never touch it again.

The other news item concerns a conversation that the Chaplain of Strangeways prison had with a former inmate. The Chaplain explains, "I received a telephone call from a man who thanked me for planting the seed of the Gospel in his life some years ago. He explained that one afternoon, it was tea-time, and he was standing at his cell door, waiting to go for tea, when I came along and said to him, 'Do you know that Jesus loves you, and He could change your life?' The prisoner told me to go to hell, but I smiled at him and passed on. Returning to his cell later his anger let vent that he should be spoken to in this way. However, that night he could not sleep, and kept on thinking, 'Could Jesus really change my life?' He was discharged a short time afterwards and did not get a chance to see me again.

"After his release he met a Christian girl and began going to church with her. Two years later he accepted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour, and now, six years after, he is preparing to go to Bible College in order to serve God in the Ministry. He concluded, 'My reason for ringing is to thank you for planting the first seed!'"

Let us thank God for His Good News,

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

PARISH CALENDAR FOR JULY

Thursday, July 1st

Church open for Day of Prayer.

Friday, July 2nd

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, July 4th

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

Wednesday, July 7th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Friday, July 9th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Saturday, July 10th

3.00 p.m. Summer Fete.

Sunday, July 11th

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
6.00 p.m. Evening Service united at New Arley.

Wednesday, July 14th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Friday, July 16th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Saturday, July 17th

7.00 p.m. Barbecue.

Sunday, July 18th

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

Monday, July 19th

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting in the Porta Cabin.

Wednesday, July 21st

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Friday, July 23rd

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, July 25th

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, July 30th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Mothers' Union. No meeting in July or August owing to members taking holidays. We shall be recommencing in September,
W. Ponder.

Ansley Ladies meet on July 7th, speaker to be arranged.
July 21st Mystery Trip to ? before breaking up for holidays.
W. Ponder

From Margaret Antil — Organiser of the Flower Festival

Over the August Bank holiday we hope to have what would be our 29th Annual Flower Festival. As would be expected, many of the early years helpers are no longer able to help. Whilst we have been able to obtain new helpers for many jobs, we need to ensure that visitors receive a warm welcome and well arranged flowers when visiting our Church.

However to enable the festival to continue it is essential that we have more volunteers, especially for the cleaning and stewarding. We particularly need cleaners from 4.00-6.00 p.m. on Friday to give the church a good clean before the commencement of the festival. Also a few at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday and Monday and at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday to vacuum the carpets and mop the porch if it is wet. Stewards are needed in Church all the time it is open and if you could spare an hour during the festival it would be much appreciated. There are also the jobs in the churchyard that need attention, i.e. sweeping the paths and weeding the gardens, etc.

I for one would be sorry to see the festivals end for lack of helpers. Over 100 people took part last year, but none of us would invite people to our own homes if we thought that we may have to lock the door because we could not be in, as was almost the case last year. Nor would we leave our home unswept.

So please if you can help, contact Diana (0203) 395089.

Thank you in advance, Margaret Antil.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism 'Those who believe and are baptised shall be saved.'

June 6—Liam Leslie Evans of Bretts Hall, Ansley Common.

June 13—Lucy Rebecca Pryke of Ansley Common.

Marriage 'The two shall be one'

June 12—Richard Dean Seedhouse of Coundon to Kirsten Willis of Stockingford.

June 19—Graham Charles Sutton of Ansley to Andrea Jones of Ansley.

Funeral at the Crematorium. 'When all of life is over and our work on earth is done.'

February 26—Bert Bachelor, aged 71 years of 121 Ansley Common.

The Church of England Children's Society's Great Cake Bake last month raised £84.04. Thank you to the many who helped make this a success, and that, in spite of the inclement weather, preventing the 'bake' being out of doors, we were able to send about £20 more than last year. Well done!

In addition to the funerals recorded in the Parish Church Register, we have been asked to include the list of those within the parish whose funeral takes place at the Crematorium. So in the future we shall be pleased to have their names also recorded in this magazine.

At our June P.C.C. Meeting it was decided to have a DAY OF PRAYER on Thursday, July 1st. It is planned that the Church is

open from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., for anyone to come to pray privately, either for a few moments or longer.

As well as praying for personal needs please also pray for our parish. That the P.C.C. will have a clear vision of what God wants to do amongst us, what God wants to do through us and to both develop and promote it.

For members of the P.C.C. this will be followed by a Saturday in September for both exploring and launching the ideas expressed by each member at our last meeting.

The Church Wardens read out a letter that they have written and will be sending to each person on our electoral roll. This deals with an important issue, and the wardens trust that it will be welcomed and taken seriously.

The Evening Service on Sunday, July 11th will be combined with our friends at **St. Michael's, New Arley**. This will commence at 6.00 p.m. The bus will reverse its usual route commencing at Ansley Common at 5.30 p.m., calling at 'Stops' through the Ansley Village at 5.40 p.m. The service will be informal and has the label 'Songs of Praise.'

Let us celebrate together is the title given to the 75th Anniversary of the Coventry Diocese 1918-1993 celebration service on Sunday, 19th September. We at Ansley have a 53 seater coach booked to take the morning congregation, plus anyone else who would like to join us, to arrive at 10.30 a.m. for the 11.15 a.m. Eucharist held in the Grand Ring of the Stoneleigh Showground. The choirs from many of the parishes in the diocese together with musicians will lead the singing. Following the service we shall have a picnic and see a pageant. The event is planned to conclude at 3.00 p.m. The preacher at the Eucharist will be the Archbishop of Canterbury. For those joining us on the bus, the cost will be £1 for Children 5 years of age and over, Adults £2. Please book your seat early.

There is a leaflet on the literature table illustrating the souvenirs available commemorating the Diocesan 75th Anniversary. These items can be obtained by post from Coventry. The address is included in the leaflet.

Summer Fete. This takes place on Saturday, July 10th commencing at 3.00 p.m. If the weather is suitable the Fete will be held in the Vicarage garden, otherwise it will be held in the Hall. We are hoping that there will be good support for this event, with stalls such as: plants, food stuff, clothes, ice cream, cakes and other useful items. The Mothers' Union will be responsible for the teas.

Barbecue will be held in the Vicarage garden on Saturday evening July 17th commencing at 7.00 p.m. This is in aid of our own Church funds and also for the Church Army.

You will remember that the Barbecue last year was held in the Hall because of the rain. We trust for better weather this time. The cost will be anything above 50p per child and anything above £1 per adult.