

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 841

JULY 1995

Price 20p



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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.

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel.: (01203) 382902

July 1st, 1995

Our Dear Friends,

In recent weeks I have received information from at least three different sources telling the same bad news and that is, that within Britain, the family is disintegrating.

The Jubilee Centre, The Maranatha Community, and the Church Society, have each collected convincing evidence, some of which has been presented to Parliament where the response has been substantial. It is a warning to us all, so that we can recognise the crumbling foundations of our nation and respond in a positive way.

I share with you some of their findings. The Chief Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks writes, "The family is where we acquire the skills and language of relationships. It is where we first take the risk of giving and receiving love. It is where one generation passes its values to the next and ensures the continuity of civilisation. For any society the family is the basic test for its future existence."

But today the family is under attack from at least two fronts. One is that many couples are choosing not to marry.

When our Queen came to the throne in 1952 the number of children born to unmarried parents was 4.8% of children born in this country. According to the Daily Mail, dated 14th September last year, now 44% of pregnant women are unmarried. In a recent survey seven out of ten people felt it was acceptable to have children without being married. Most felt that couples with children should not necessarily stay together.

The other attack on the family is the ease with which people choose divorce. Almost four in ten marriages end that way. It means that there has been an increase of 600% in marriage breakdown since 1961. Consequently thousands of children are experiencing insecurity, rejection, confusion and fear. Many carry a burden of guilt, thinking they are to blame.

The mistakes and sins of one generation are clearly manifest in the next. One of the characteristics of contemporary society is the emergence of young people as criminals. Deprived of moral guidance and frequently brutalised they reach the stage, as one High Court Judge recently stated, of being "unable to know the difference between right and wrong."

Dr. Spock, the popular paediatrician, who has influenced millions of parents in the past fifty years and now says, "When I look at society and think of the millions of children exposed every day to its poison I am near despair. My despair comes not only from the progressive loss of spiritual and idealistic values, but from the fact that our present society is not working." (The Times 20th October, 1994).

We have done 'our own thing' without recognising the inevitable consequences. Like the great Titanic ship, the Nation sails towards disaster, without seeming to care very much, steering away from its God given directives by humanism, materialism and secularism. The nation's rudder can be turned however. **Wisdom begins when we fear God.**

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN JULY 1995

Saturday, July 1st

7.00 p.m. Barbecue at the Vicarage Garden.

Sunday, July 2nd

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

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

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer B.C.P. 'Whom to Serve.'

Tuesday, July 4th

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Thursday, July 6th

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting.

Friday, July 7th

10.00 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee Morning. Ivy Love's home.

Saturday, July 8th

3.00 p.m. Garden Party.

Sunday, July 9th

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Service. A.S.B. 'Which Way.'

Wednesday, July 12th

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Saturday, July 15th

Car Treasure Hunt.

Sunday, July 16th

10.30 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion. "I will return," Luke 15 11-24.

Sunday, July 23rd

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

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Service. Captain Tom Heriot, Church Army.

Sunday, July 30th

10.30 a.m. Morning Service, Captain Tom Heriot.

6.30 p.m. Guest Service, Captain Tom Heriot.

Every Tuesday

10.00 a.m. Senior Citizens, Ansley Village Church Hall.

6.00 p.m. Children's Club.

Every Thursday

10.30 a.m. Mothers' and Toddlers, Ansley Village Church Hall.

6.30 p.m. Youth Club and Explorers, St. John's Hall, Ansley Common.

Every Friday

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Internment of Ashes — The Lord is my Shepherd

June 22—Edith Dorothy Orton, aged 87 years.

Mrs. Orton passed away at Bournemouth. Her ashes are interned here in a family grave.

Seeds of Hope is the title of the book produced by the Women's Group of 'Christians Together.' The book was launched at a special service of Thanksgiving at the George Eliot Hospital Chapel last month. Copies of the book are on sale, price £2.00 and are in aid of the Mary Ann Evans Hospice. It is a devotional book of encouragement as the title suggests. About four women at least from our parish have made contributions.

Barbara Batts.

Car Treasure Hunt is this month's main fund raising item in aid of the Church new building fund. Do come and join in. Saturday, July 15th, starting at 6.30 to 7.00 p.m. It will be a staggered start. Commencing at "Wayside," Birchley Heath. The home of Tony and Joyce Allton. Finishing at the same place at dusk, (or before). The entry cost per car is £5. This includes tea and biscuits on return. The distance is approximately 25 miles. The treasure will be presented to the driver covering the distance in the shortest time by careful, cautious driving. Joyce Allton.

Manorfield Choir Concert. Many thanks to all who supported the concert on June 20th and raised £140 (after expenses) for our General Church Funds. Friends and supporters from Galley Common, Stoney Stanton, Coalville, Nuneaton, and Leicester seemed as delighted with the evening as our own Church members were.

Others, who were unable to come to Ansley, helped to swell the numbers and funds at the concerts given at Sutton Cheney and Stoney Stanton churches.

Thanks also go to those who provided and ensured that the refreshments were prepared and served so efficiently. They were appreciated.

Margaret Kimberley.

Nine Lives. The open fellowship held in the Church Hall on June 14th was a very stimulating evening when we heard of some of the hair raising adventures experienced by Andrew Thompson as he took Bibles into Muslim countries of the Middle East. He has seen many Muslims come to faith in Christ.

Andrew, born deaf, has seen many miracles happen, including the healing of his ears for one year, enough time to learn to speak and sing. One of his great assets is his sense of humour and along with his conjuring tricks has got him through many scrapes.

We continue to pray for Andrew as he takes up the position of Youth Pastor in a parish in Matlock, Derbyshire. Catherine.

Mothers' Union. Gill Kimber gave an enjoyable and interesting talk at the June meeting.

Mrs. Amy Allton will be the speaker at the next meeting on July 4th, at 3.00 p.m. Everyone welcome. Marie Cove.

There will be a Coffee Morning on Friday, July 7th at the home of Mrs. Ivy Love. She has very kindly welcomed us to her home, 138 Earls Road, Nuneaton (a left turn almost opposite the Abbey Church) from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. This is in aid of the new building. Lifts will be available upon request.

The Barbecue in the Vicarage garden this year is on Saturday, July 1st. If the weather is unsuitable we shall have it in the Church Hall. This event will enable us to send a donation towards the many varied work of the Church Army.

The Garden Fete is at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday, July 8th. This is always an enjoyable occasion. There will be a variety of stalls including the popular cake stall, and the Mothers' Union are serving the refreshments. The fete opens with a fancy dress competition for the boys and girls.

The Great Cake Bake raised approximately £112 for the Church of England Children's Society. This proved as popular as ever, raising almost twice the amount of income than previous years. Obviously the baking is appreciated by an increasing number of people. Thank you to all who took part.
Margaret Oliver.

The Parochial Church Council meets in Ansley Village Church Hall on Thursday, July 6th at 7.45 p.m. Items to the Chairman please at least three days before the meeting.

The Guest Service will be on the fifth Sunday night of this month, 6.30 p.m. on the 30th. Please choose your favourite hymn, and place it in the suggestion box on the literature table, or let one of the Wardens have it. Bring your own guests to this informal Service. Captain Tom Heriot of the Church Army will be our guest preacher. He has recently retired from a parish in the Worcestershire Diocese, and now lives in London. For many years he has been a gifted and popular itinerate preacher.

The Auction Sale last month was both enjoyable and entertaining. We do so readily thank Mr. Stan Forryan for his auctioneering. Much of the work promised either has been done, and is being done; and some yet to be completed. We are most grateful to the many people who took part in this venture which is expected to contribute to the Building fund about £600 plus. So it was very worthwhile.

A Church Leader in China's Guangdong Province says his people have not seen a copy of the Bible for 27 years. Another leader representing 600,000 believers in Henan says that he needs at least 23,400 Bibles each month just for new converts! Yet another Church Leader passes his Church's sole Bible from family to family. Each family keeps it for two or three days, copying as much as they can before handing it on to others. "Even when we bring in a load of Scriptures we hear that more are needed," said the Leader of one Christian group which regularly takes Bibles into China. Let us remember to pray for these good people.

During our prayer day last month when the Church was open from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., the following pattern was used to guide the thoughts of those who prayed, based on Acts 2 v 36-47. You may find it useful to use at home. Building our Church to be a **real** worshipping Church, **Relevant** to people **ready** to welcome others, **Rich** in fellowship and prayer, **Reaching** out to the Church Worldwide through prayer and giving.

Twelve Open Gardens helped display "Ansley in Bloom." The weather could have been better on the Saturday; but the Sunday was lovely and a larger number of people came. The gardens were splendid, colourful and greatly admired. The strawberries were delicious. The Hosts and Hostesses were marvellous, giving conducted tours and explaining the various plants, etc. The visitors were generous. Very many thanks to all who helped make that weekend so well worthwhile. Special thanks to David Morley who organised the event. The income to the Building Fund will be included in next month's magazine.