

# 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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1st July, 1996

Our Dear Friends,

Peter Cartwright, a household name in his day, recalls seeing a little man carrying a big woman on his back. As he made haste to offer assistance he wondered, is she a cripple? Or has she been taken ill? Neither guess was the reason. For many years his wife had continually nagged him, so much as to make him most unhappy, miserable and depressed. However, he had listened to the words of Jesus read out in Church. 'Unless you take up your cross you cannot be My disciple.' Needless to say, both husband and wife had misunderstood. Peter Cartwright sat them down by the roadside and explained to them the meaning that they were not to live selfishly, but with a new generous attitude towards God and all people.

Like the little man, many today have not understood God's good news so they have reacted to it in various ways. One popular way is to try to change it. General Booth of the Salvation Army recognised this problem and wrote at the beginning of this century; "The chief danger of the twentieth century will be religion without the Holy Spirit; Christianity without Christ; forgiveness without repentance; salvation without a new life style; politics without God; and Heaven without Hell."

Another reaction to God's good news, which is most popular today, is to ignore it. C. S. Lewis, whose books both for Children and Adults dominated the middle of this century wrote, "It is since people have largely ceased to think about the other world that they have become so disillusioned in this one. Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you will get neither."

The third possible reaction to the good news from God is to embrace it with the warmest enthusiasm. As we come to the close of this century it is good to hear the timely words of George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury. "If our evangelism is to be effective then we need to accept afresh the challenge to pray. When the fire of prayer goes out it is usually replaced by the barrenness of busyness; but through prayer, and a fresh vision of Christ, we can ensure that the driving force in all we do will be the spirit of renewal as we see God at work in new and wonderful ways. Let us see to it that the fire of prayer will set Britain ablaze with effective proclamation and warm reception of the Gospel."

There is a fourth reaction to God's good news which has always been present and that is to try to destroy the message or punish the messenger. In this twentieth century thousands have been put to death worldwide, or have lost jobs, house, families because of their allegiance to Christ. No wonder Jesus called His would-be followers to count the cost.

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

## DIARY FOR JULY 1996

### Monday, July 1st

6.00 p.m. Open-Air Children's Meeting, Birchley Heath.

### Tuesday, July 2nd

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

### Wednesday, July 3rd

7.00 p.m. Door to Door Visiting in Bretts Hall Estate.

### Sunday, July 7th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Baptisms.

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

### Monday, July 8th

6.00 p.m. Open-Air Children's Meeting, Birchley Heath.

### Thursday, July 11th

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting, St. John's, Ansley Common.

### Friday, July 12th

8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Day of Prayer in Church.

### Saturday, July 13th

3.00 p.m. Garden Fete.

### Sunday, July 14th

10.30 a.m. Family Communion, Preacher: Matthew Roper of "Signpost Ministries."

6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

### Monday, July 15th

6.00 p.m. Open-Air Children's Meeting, Birchley Heath.

### Sunday, July 21st

10.30 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

### Sunday, July 28th

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

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

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

### Every Week in the Village Church Hall

**Tuesday** 10.00 a.m. Senior Citizens. 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. and 10.00 a.m., each Sunday morning; 6.00 p.m. each Sunday evening.

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

**Holy Matrimony** "To have and to hold from this day forward."

June 1—Geoffrey Edward Lowe of Leckhampton to Barbara Christine Batts of Ansley.

June 22—Jonathan Stuart Maltby to Joanne Rawbone, both of Ansley Common.

**Funeral** "The Lord is My Shepherd."

June 12—Dorothy Mary Johnson, 74 years, of Croft Mead, Ansley Village.

**Dorothy Mary Johnson** was born at 47 Birmingham Road seventy four years ago and lived there all her life until just a year ago when she moved to Croft Mead, Dol, as she was known by all her friends, loved life, and always enjoyed a laugh. She was a member of our evening congregation. She is buried in the family grave with her parents and her husband Bill to whom she was married 39 years before his passing ten years ago. She will be greatly missed by her many friends, relations and neighbours.

**During the Summer** we plan to have the Children's Open-Air meetings on the Common at Birchley Heath as in past years. In addition to the children, parents will be welcome to offer their valuable help. We plan to commence at 6.00 p.m., weather permitting, on the days indicated in the "diary of events" and also posted in the Village Shop.

**Day of Prayer** takes place on Friday, July 12th when the Church will be open from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Plan to come either for a few minutes or for a longer period of time. If you can add your name to the list giving the time of your stay, that will help us as we draw up the list to make sure that one or more persons will be in Church all the time.

**The Summer Fete** is planned for Saturday, July 13th at 3.00 p.m. in the Vicarage Garden if the weather is suitable, otherwise it will be held in the Village Church Hall. There will be a variety of stalls and also the Children's Fancy Dress. Refreshments served by the Mothers' Union. Home-made cakes, ice cream stall, etc.

**Along with all homes** the Churchyard has been issued with a wheeley bin, but of industrial size, which has to be put at the top of the car park for collection as the council will no longer go to the bottom for the rubbish. This bin when full of wet dead flowers and wreaths is extremely heavy. Therefore it has been placed at the point of collection. This is also where the most people visiting the Churchyard pass. The bins at the bottom of the car park and by Lion House have been removed.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter, and to all who help to keep the Churchyard tidy. Margaret Antill.

**The Parochial Church Council** meeting this month will be held in St. John's Hall, Ansley Common at 7.45 p.m. There will be no meeting in August. Items for the agenda should reach the Chairman at least three days before the meeting.

**The Great Cake Bake** was held last month on the Vicarage Lawn in splendid weather. Many had worked hard in the baking of a wide variety of splendid cakes. Very many thanks for that generosity on behalf of the Church of England's Children's Society. Special thanks to Margaret Oliver who arranged the event, and as a result was able to send £88 to the Society.

**We gratefully acknowledge** the gift of £3000 from the late Frank Arnold's will. It is entrusted to us with the expressed condition that it is to be used for charitable purposes only. And that, under the direction of the parochial Church Council, we shall endeavour to do.

It was also Frank's desire that the handsome clock, presented to him as a token of affection from the parish, should, after his death, be placed in the Parish Church. This will be done shortly.

## **A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY**

Dear Friends,

### **Installation of The Bishop of Warwick in Coventry Cathedral Saturday, July 6th at 3.00 p.m.**

The Reverend Canon Anthony Priddis is to be consecrated as Bishop of Warwick in Southwark Cathedral on Wednesday, July 3rd. On the following Saturday, July 6th, he will be installed in the Cathedral and I am writing to encourage as many of you as possible to be present on this occasion when we can welcome our new Suffragan Bishop.

Also present on this occasion will be many members from Amersham, Canon Priddis's former parish, and I am sure you will want to join with them in this service.

I look forward to seeing you on July 6th.

With my warmest good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Simon

**There is a training evening** with Claire Gibb author of "Building New Bridges" which has been arranged for Tuesday, July 16th at St. Michael's Church at Bishop's Itchington (near Leamington Spa) at 7.30 p.m., for all those interested in reaching and teaching children through mid-week clubs. Please ring to book in so that they can provide you with a seat and refreshments. Cost £2.00. Information and Booking: Rev. Martin Green, Tel.: 01926 613466.

### **BEATITUDES FOR MARRIED COUPLES**

BLESSED are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate and loving after the wedding bells have ceased ringing.

Blessed are the husband and wife who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends.

Blessed are they who have a sense of humour, for this attribute will be a handy shock absorber.

Blessed are they who love their mates more than any other person in the world, and who joyfully fulfill their marriage vow of a lifetime of fidelity and mutual helpfulness to each other.

Blessed are they who remember to thank God for their food before they partake of it, and who set aside some time each day for the reading of the Bible and prayer.

Blessed are the husband and wife who can work out their problems of adjustments without interference from relatives.

Blessed is the couple who have a complete understanding about financial matters and who have worked out perfect partnership with all the money under the control of both.

Blessed are the husband and wife who humbly dedicate their lives and their home to Christ and practice the teachings of Christ in their home by being unselfish, loyal and loving.