

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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Sunday Bus Timetable for 6.30 p.m. Evening Service

Ansley Village turn 6.00 p.m.

Birchley Heath Post Office 6.10 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,
August 1991

Our dear friends,

During the Gulf War, earlier this year, an Iraqi woman saw both her husband and all her children killed in one attack. As she sat alone crying, Jesus came to her in a vivid vision. After comforting her He directed her to a group of people working in the area who would be able to help. She followed the Lord's instructions and met a Christian team bringing relief to people. They were able to help her in every way possible including leading her to a personal faith in the Lord. She has now gone back to her devastated village radiant with the love of Christ.

Andrew Thompson, a friend of ours, working in Jordan for the past nine months, led a young Muslim man to believe in the risen Jesus. The young man then told Andrew that when his sister had taken that same step of faith his Muslim father had killed her. He knew that his own life was now at risk. Not knowing what to do they both prayed for guidance. Just then, a Jordanian Christian friend of Andrew's was sent by clear directions from the Lord to that very place where the two were praying. Following Andrew's explanations, the friend knew that God had sent him to take this young believer into his own home, and Christian fellowship.

Here in our own parish this month we look forward to the 27th Flower Festival. In advance, I want to thank the members of our congregation who are involved in the planning, preparation and activities needed to make this Festival a success. Margaret Antill is our enthusiastic leader and organiser and we are all grateful to her. She has worked on the theme "I Believe" for the past twelve months, and the flower displays will illustrate various aspects of our faith.

In worship every Sunday we say the creed, "I believe in God." But what sort of God do we believe in? A God who is remote, distant and unknowable? A God who is hard, indifferent and angry?

The encouraging and challenging fact is that God is very near, a rewarder of those who put their trust in Him. A Bible verse teaches us that when we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. (James 4 : 8). The two incidents at the beginning of this letter show to us that whatever our circumstances, whether we are on the mountain top of happiness or living in the valley of the shadow of death, we need fear no evil, for God is with us as we reach out to Him the hand of faith.

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

DIARY OF EVENTS IN AUGUST

Thursday, August 1st

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting, Church Hall, Ansley Village.

Friday, August 2nd

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in the Church.

Sunday, August 4th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

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

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer 1662 Prayer Book.

Friday, August 9th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in the Church.

Sunday, August 11th

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

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

Friday, August 16th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in the Church.

Sunday, August 18th

11.00 a.m. Morning Service and Baptism.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

Thursday, August 22nd

7.00 p.m. Erecting the Festival Marquee.

Friday, August 23rd — FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

6.00 p.m. Flower Festival opens.

7.30 p.m. Flower Festival Dedication Service.

Saturday, August 24th

10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Church open for viewing. Marquee open for refreshments and produce sale.

Sunday, August 25th

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Festival Evensong.

Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Clive Handford, Bishop of Warwick.

Monday, August 26th

10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Church open for viewing. Marquee open for refreshments and produce sale.

Tuesday, August 27th

10.00 a.m. Taking down Marquee.

Friday, August 30th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Strong men required to help erect the marquee on Thursday evening August 22nd at 7.00 p.m. and to take it down on Tuesday, August 27th at 10.00 a.m. We shall be very glad of a helping hand. Thank you !

Garden Produce will be very gratefully received for sale in the marquee at any time over the Festival Weekend; and Cakes, etc., will be appreciated by the ladies responsible for the refreshments.

Volunteers please come forward to help with the following jobs before and during the Festival. Mowing, sweeping, gardening and cutting the edges, Cleaning the Church and stewarding during times of viewing.

Wedding and home magazine has recently published the conclusion of a survey they conducted, having questioned 2000 couples all over England. The survey was about the costs of getting married. The most important part of the wedding day, i.e. the Church costs, were not even mentioned. The average bill for a white wedding with all the trimmings is £7359. The bride's dress is £569. Engagement ring £442. The reception accounts for the lion's share of the overall cost. Hire of the venue ranges from £637 to £4000. Catering and food can be between £1226 and £8000. There are still some couples who know how to make do at home for £50 or less. Bridesmaids and a page boy are usually dressed at a total cost of £392. A professional photographer costs £225 plus £159 for a video. Northern Ireland, where the highest number of grooms (73 per cent) wear morning suits, is the only place where all couples are engaged before getting married.

Kapsiki is a language spoken in the Cameroon, West Africa, and is the latest to have a translation of the New Testament. There are 60,000 Kapsiki who are hill-dwellers near the Nigerian border. There are said to be 5000 Christians in that land.

Friends using the bus have very kindly asked for a method of paying something towards the costs. So a box on the literature table labelled "Bus" will be the easiest way for those wanting to make a contribution to do so.

Our Parish sponsors two children from the third world; **Halima Mwinyi** from Africa, and **Martha Vagas** from South America. Their care has come under the umbrella of T.E.A.R. fund who organise the welfare of the children. St. John's has made themselves responsible for Martha and St. Laurence has the responsibility for Halima. This is currently running at £13 per month per child. This is a great responsibility as well as a great privilege. If you would like to be involved in this please take a T.E.A.R. fund box home and make a contribution in it of as little as 10p per week. That will go a long way especially if many of us do it. We are grateful to Pat Matthews who is more than willing to be responsible for sending the money in. Please hand your donations to her. In addition to giving, we must also make praying a priority for them.

Africa is the only region of the world where death among children is increasing, according to a United Nations report. Per person income is four per cent lower than in 1986 and Africa is the only continent where the gap between food production and needs is widening.

Alfred Bazeley, who has been a member of our Church all his 81 years, passed away on Saturday, June 29th, after a short illness. Alf was a gentle person who, when we first came to the parish, was still bringing May on his motorbike to the morning service. He came from a farming family, always loved the countryside and took great pleasure in his daily walks. He was married to May in 1936 at St. Peter's, Galley Common after meeting up at the Sunday School there in their teens. They had three children, Peter, who was very gifted and generous in his time and work for the Church here, died four years ago; and Jean who died in 1988 had been a Sunday School teacher. We pray for May and her daughter Joan, and the other members of the family that they may be strengthened by the Grace and Love of Christ, and supported by the caring neighbours round about them.

During this month tickets will be on sale for the Marilyn Baker event at Ansley Social Club on Friday, September 6th, commencing at 7.30 p.m., finishing approximately 10.00 p.m. There will be a buffet meal during the interval. Because of the catering there will be a limited number of tickets available at £3 and can be purchased from all those who kindly distribute our magazines in the many parts of the parish each month.

The final Gift Day total amounted to £350. This figure will be used to help modernise the toilets at St. John's, Ansley Common; replace the heating system at the Church Hall, Ansley Village and provide a notice board at Birchley Heath. Thank you for taking a box and helping us in this practical way. This essential work on the two halls will be carried out during the summer holiday, ready for the winter activities.

At the evening service during the Flower Festival we welcome Bishop Clive Handford to preach. He is the new Bishop of Warwick and it will be his first visit to our parish.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Funeral "It is not night if Thou be near."

July 8—Alfred John Bazeley, 81 years of Ansley Village.

The recent Coffee Morning at David and Judith Wilson's home realised £33. Thank you to the many friends who came to this event, which proved very popular. This amount will be added to the improvements fund at St. John's.