

# ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No, 806

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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.  
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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1st August, 1992

Our Dear Friends,

This month we celebrate. It is always good to have a celebration because we do it together. Like the Three Musketeers, all for one and one for all.

I'm writing, of course, about the Flower Festival. It is always the time of the year when everyone gets involved and works side by side, helping and assisting with others that they may not have had the chance of talking to for ages. So we are glad that the occasion has come round again. We are glad too to have Margaret Antill who has the vision and the ideas and directs us individually and collectively to see it all harmoniously fall into place.

The theme this year is 'Sheep.' The Bible tells us a lot about Sheep and how people are like Sheep. One of the most famous modern illustrations of this in the world is the one about Tockichi Ishii. He was one of the sheep in the sense that he was lost and alone; but like a wolf in the sense that he was wild and dangerous. Ishii was a Japanese criminal with a unique record of savage murder. He was a man of fiendish brutality, pitiless as a tiger. He had callously murdered men and women and even little children. He was captured and condemned and he was in prison awaiting execution.

He was visited by two brave Canadian women. They could make no impression on him; he would not even speak or answer; he simply glowered at them like a wild beast. In the end they had to go away and leave him, but as they did so they left a Bible with him in his cell. For some reason, when he was alone, Ishii began to read the book, and then, once he started, he could not stop. He read on and on until he came to the story of the Cross. It was the saying of Jesus: "Father forgive them, they know not what they do," that broke him. Later Ishii was able to speak about his experience of that moment. "I stopped," he said, "I was stabbed to the heart, as if pierced by a five-inch nail. Shall I call it the love of Christ? Shall I call it His compassion? I do not know what to call it, I only know that I believed, and the hardness of my heart was changed."

When in the end the gaoler came to lead him to the scaffold, instead of the surly, hardened, brutal, almost beast-like man he once had been, he went to his death with a serene, smiling, gentle radiance, for Tockichi Ishii the murderer had been reborn by reading the word of God.

Our prayer is that this year's Flower Festival may be a blessing to many and a reason to celebrate.

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.



## DIARY FOR AUGUST 1992

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### **Sunday, August 2nd**

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (1662 Prayer Book).

### **Monday, August 3rd**

- 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Work Team.

### **Friday, August 7th**

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

### **Sunday, August 9th**

- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

### **Friday, August 14th**

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

### **Sunday, August 16th**

- 11.00 a.m. Family Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

### **Friday, August 21st**

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

### **Sunday, August 23rd**

- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. (Alternative Service Book).

### **Thursday, August 27th**

- 7.00 p.m. Erecting the Festival Marquee.

### **Friday, August 28th—FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND**

- 6.00 p.m. Flower Festival opens.
- 7.30 p.m. Flower Festival Dedication Service.

### **Saturday, August 29th**

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

### **Sunday, August 30th**

- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Festival Evensong.
- Preacher: The Rev. Geoffrey Kimber, Rector of Arley.

### **Monday, August 31st**

- 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Church open for viewing. Marquee open for refreshments and produce sale.
- 7.30 p.m. Evening of music by Soloists, Choir and Congregation.

### **Tuesday, September 1st**

- 10.00 a.m. Taking down Marquee.

**Strong Men** required to help erect the marquee on Thursday evening August 27th at 7.00 p.m. and to take it down again on Tuesday, September 1st at 10.00 a.m. We shall be very glad of a helping hand. Thank you!

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

**Marriage** "Is a Holy Mystery in which Man and Woman become one Flesh."

June 27—Mark Robinson of Ansley Village and Sheena Lynn Davies of Old Arley.

**Funeral** "Because I live, you shall live also," said Jesus to the believer.

June 24—Annie Wilson, aged 75 years, of Tuttle Hill, formerly of Ansley Common.

**Garden Produce** will be very gratefully received for sale in the marquee at any time over the Flower Festival Weekend; and cakes etc., for the refreshments will be appreciated by the ladies responsible for the morning and afternoon cuppa's.

**Please add your name** to the rota of stewards in the Church Porch for the Festival. Other work for which volunteers are needed is mowing, sweeping, gardening, and cleaning the Church at the end of each day, selling in the marquee, and washing up.

**Churchyard work team** meeting to work on Monday, August 3rd at 9.30 a.m. has the hedge to cut as its primary task. If you can help, please turn up with shears. There will be lots of other jobs to do too, and refreshments will be served in the portacabin.

**As our preacher** for the Sunday evening service at the Flower Festival will be the new Rector of Arley, The Rev. Geoffrey Kimber. We give him a warm welcome.

**At the conclusion** of the Flower Festival an evening of music is being organised by Margaret Kimberley. Local talent will be sharing in what promises to be an enjoyable evening commencing at ~~7.30 p.m.~~ 8 p.m.

**Ansley Mothers' Union** would like to thank Mrs. Varden for opening her home for a coffee morning on Wednesday, 15th, for all members who provided refreshments, for everyone who came along to support us for this worthy cause which was to help provide money towards a new ambulance. Proceeds amounted to £60, for this once again I say thank you. No meeting in August. W. Ponder.

**The income from the Barbecue** last month was £163.40. This has been equally divided between the Church Army and the Philippine church in the City of Iloilo. So many helped to make this an enjoyable evening, inspite of the rain; causing us to use the hall instead of the garden. Thank you.

**Gordon and Ruth Chilvers** will be conducting their Children's Bible Week again this year.

Commencing Monday, August 3rd at 4.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday 10.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. Thursday 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. Friday 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. There is no charge and meals are provided.

This annual event usually attracts about sixty local children and I know that very many from our parish enjoy this week as do also

many parents who give a helping hand. The event takes place at "Bethany," Morewood Lane, Chapel End,

## **PHILIPPINES '92**

Kerry Dixon, one of the Church Army Captains who visited us during the mission in 1990, will be leading a four-week Mission to Iloilo City in the Philippines in November this year. He has been given a vision to take a team of ten people, a container of clothing, books, writing materials and toys, and to raise the £15,000 they need to buy land to build a church. The people there live in immense poverty, yet many are giving their lives to the Lord.

I have offered myself as a member of the team. Various social events being held over the summer will be an opportunity to give donations. There will be a day in September when gifts of clothing, books, etc., can be brought to the Village Hall. More details on this next month.

Barbara Batts

**The Car treasure hunt** held from "Wayside," Birchley Heath and organised by Tony and Joyce Allton proved to be quite an enjoyable challenge for all the participating teams. Everyone got lost but eventually found their way back to the finishing post, resulting in £60 being added to the Philippine project. The weather was ideal, the fellowship was good and the refreshments enjoyed. Thanks for a novel evening.

**Thanks to the enthusiasm** of many friends there was a wide selection of stalls at the Garden Fete last month and an enjoyable afternoon was spent by a good number of customers. Thank you to all who got involved; giving so much time and effort, planning and generosity. It is really appreciated. The financial result was £263 and will help us towards meeting the increasing expenses of our Church.

**For sale** in the marquee during the Flower Festival will be notelets. Six Church scenes and six envelopes in a packet for £1.

We also hope to have the 1993 Church diaries at £1 and also the mugs. Four colours selling at £2.50 each.

**The Frenchman Voltaire** (1694-1778), a vehement critic of the Bible, was sitting in his home in Paris, discussing the Bible. With a shrug of his shoulders he dismissed it by saying, "A hundred years from now you will never hear of it. Oh, possibly you might see a copy in a museum, but otherwise it will be gone; it is a thoroughly discredited book!"

A hundred years later, the same house in which Voltaire said these words, his old home in Paris, was the property of the British and Foreign Bible Society. It was one of their distributing houses, packed full of Bibles waiting for distribution to the four corners of the earth! The critic dies, and the old book lives on.