

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No, 818

AUGUST 1993

Price 13p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

Mrs. CATHERINE A. JASPER

The Vicarage, Ansley Village, Nuneaton CV10 9PS

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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August 1st, 1993

Our Dear Friends,

It is Flower Festival time again at the end of this month. This year's theme is 'The Promises of God,' and we shall look forward to seeing this theme expressed in the wide variety of flower arrangements. It is the event which unites talent, faith, and individualism into a team work to achieve a display that speaks for God.

It was through united team work that enabled another parish to be together not for a Flower Festival but for a noble sacrifice. It was the vicar of Eyam, in Derbyshire, and his wife who inspired the people to make an heroic decision.

It happened in 1665, when the plague 'Black Death' came to Eyam. The village tailor had received a consignment of cloth from Europe. This cloth carried the plague to the parish and within two days the tailor was struck down with a raging fever, and his body was covered with livid purple blotches. Fear gripped the village as the tailor died and others showed symptoms of the plague. People wanted to escape to safer areas but the vicar and his wife persuaded the villagers to stay put to prevent the plague spreading to other parts. Boundaries were set up around the parish and the brave people gave themselves up to a voluntary quarantine. Sacrificing themselves so that others could live.

In the fifteen terrifying months which followed, 260 people died. Less than eighty villagers survived. Eventually the plague exhausted itself leaving a village desolated, with many empty cottages and neglected and run down farms. They were heroes of their time in having the courage to stay at their homes. Their names are recorded in their local parish Church.

Through those dark and uncertain months they were sustained by faith in the promises of God; and by the ministry of the Christian leaders they were led to faith in Jesus; and that enabled them to look beyond time to the certainty of heaven.

This sacrificial action on the part of so many people can open our minds to an understanding of the Lord's work for us. Jesus sacrificed Himself that we could live.

Our commitment to Him will follow our belief in Him. Just as in marriage when we promise our life to another person, so commitment to Jesus is promising our life to Him and His promise to us strengthens that commitment.

Can I be sure Jesus is with me? Yes, because of His promise (Revelation 3 20) and when I act upon it, and ask Him to come into my life, He then promises, "I am with you always even to the end."

We trust that the Flower Festival will speak and challenge many to trust in the promises of God.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR AUGUST 1993

Sunday, August 1st

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Alternative Service Book).
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer).

Sunday, August 8th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

Sunday, August 15th

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

Sunday, August 22nd

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

Thursday, August 26th

- 7.00 p.m. Erecting the Marquee.

Friday, August 27th — Flower Festival commences

- 6.00 p.m. Church Open for Viewing.
- 8.00 p.m. Flower Festival Dedication Service.

Saturday, August 28th

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

Sunday, August 29th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Festival Service.
Preacher: The Rev. Canon Anthony Gardner, Rector of Whitnash.

Monday, August 30th

- 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Church Open for Viewing and Marquee open for refreshments and produce sale.
- 8.00 p.m. 'Evening of Music' Concert in Church.

Tuesday, August 31st

- 7.00 p.m. Taking down Marquee.

Meeting for Prayer each Friday in Church at 6.45 p.m.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Memorial Service

Monday, July 5th—Scot Trout, aged 15 years, of Hereford and formerly of Birmingham Road, Ansley Village.

Gordon and Ruth Chilvers will again be conducting the annual **Children's Bible Week** this year from Monday to Friday commencing Monday, August 2nd, then daily, concluding on Friday, August 6th.

They will be using our Marquee for the main meeting each day at 10.00 a.m. Then games, etc., will be organised in their spacious grounds.

This annual event attracts about 60 children daily from Ansley Common and the surrounding area. Grateful parents give a helping hand. For further details ring 392313.

Our Church Magazine must be amongst the cheapest in the country at 13 pence per copy. Most Church magazines are priced at 20p. In the autumn our P.C.C. will be deciding what price we should have for next year. Some magazine distributors have suggested 17p per copy or £2 per year. What do you think? Please let P.C.C. members know, so that we can reach an acceptable decision.

FLOWER FESTIVAL NEWS

Theme: "Promise"

Never shall His Promise fail

Churchyard Work Team will be busy during this month to help make the grounds suitable for the Festival. Will you please help? Removing dead flowers, etc., and any rubbish and generally giving a helping hand.

Please add your name to the rota of Stewards in the Church Porch for the Festival. Diana Kealey is making up this list, do please have a word with her if you can offer your help.

Cleaners Please to get the Church looking smart before 6.00 p.m. opening on Friday. Do give your name to Margaret Antill. She will then know of helpers available from 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Garden Produce will be most welcome for sale in the marquee at any time over the Flower Festival Weekend. Vegetables, plants, flowers, etc.

Refreshments will be appreciated by the ladies in charge of this stall. Gifts of homemade baking and contributions towards coffees and teas will be welcome.

The Guest Preacher for the Sunday night service is Canon Anthony Gardner who is the Rector of Whitnash, near Leamington Spa. It is his first visit to our Church.

Festival Concert is once again being organised by the two Margarets, Margaret Antill and Margaret Kimberley. Everyone enjoyed the varied programme last year. Local talent will be contributing to a combination of music by Soloists, and Congregation.

Again we are most grateful to Margaret Antill whose enthusiasm, planning, and vision makes these Flower Festivals possible. In our appreciation we also include her husband Ian and children Sally and Stephen who are put to considerable household inconvenience without complaint. We trust that they agree with us that the end result is just simply 'worth it all.'

Erecting the Marquee on Thursday, August 26th at 7.00 p.m. and dismantling it on Tuesday, August 31st at 7.00 p.m. will require some manpower. We shall be glad of a helping hand. Thank you!

The Summer Fete in July realised £244. Thank you to the many who worked towards this event and to those who supported it. These happy occasions are very important not only to help meet our ever increasing financial burdens, but also for the opportunity of meeting friends and neighbours.

A good number of villagers gathered together last month at the Church for the memorial service for Scot Trout, who was 15 years of age. The funeral had been held at the Church in HEREFORD to which the family had moved some twelve months ago.

We are all very sorry that a life so young has been so tragically lost. We all remember Scot, not only because he lived at the village shop, but also because he made his mark on the life of the Sunday School and later, on the Pathfinders. His personality won the hearts of many of the older members of the congregation.

We trust that the love and concern shown by so many will help sustain John and Sue and family in their bereavement; and that the God of all hope will fill them with His own peace.

An Advance Notice. On Friday, September 24th at 7.30 p.m. a Ploughman's Supper followed by music and entertainment is being arranged to take place at the Social Club, Ansley Village. We are grateful to the Social Club Committee for kindly allowing us to use their Concert Room. We have invited David Ward, whom many of you will remember from our last Valentine Service, to be the Special Guest. He will bring others with him who will assist in the programme. As on the two previous occasions at the Club, this special evening promises to be an enjoyable time.

Resulting from the Barbecue in the middle of July we were able to send Church Army £62.30 and put £62.30 into our own Church current account. We trust that all who attended enjoyed the good food and good company as well as the musical entertainment.

Stuart McAllister, a leading spokesman on the attitudes of today's youth, states that today's young people are saturated with ideas that emphasise pleasure as one of the highest goals in life. This feeds the individual ego first and foremost; and breeds anti-authority, independence, and doing whatever feels good or is best for self interest.

Overwhelmed by pleasure-givers, boredom has become a major factor and this boredom leads to frustration, sex, anger, violence, or vandalism for kicks. When that does not satisfy, some attempt suicide.

A complete opposite approach to life however, is presented by the Christian faith.

Jesus explains it in these words recorded in Matthew 16 24-25 "If anyone wants to come with Me, he must forget self, carry his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his own life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

For the Christmas Fair. When you go on holiday this year please bring a small gift back for a Christmas Stall and hand it to Judith Wilson. This will make a useful stall, Thank you!