

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 759

SEPTEMBER 1988

Price 13p



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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,

1st September, 1988

Our Dear Friends,

The 15th of this month is the anniversary of the birth of John Fletcher, who was born in 1729. He grew up surrounded by the glorious mountain scenery of his father's estates in Switzerland. Later, whilst studying at Geneva University, he decided to join the army.

He couldn't join the Swiss army because his parents wouldn't give their consent. So he went to Lisbon to get his commission in the army of the King of Portugal.

As he waited in France for a boat to Portugal, a clumsy waitress fell and scalded John with boiling tea. He was 'invalided' out of the Portuguese army almost before his career had begun.

At the age of 21 John Fletcher travelled to England to become tutor to the two sons of Thomas Hill, M.P. One day, near St. Albans, he went for a walk in the country and an elderly woman spoke to him about Jesus Christ, whom she professed to know and serve. Sometime later whilst listening to a sermon by a country preacher called Green his eyes were opened to the grace that God offers sinners. "Is it possible that I, who had been given Divinity awards by Geneva University, can know so little about these things, that I find myself learning from a relatively ignorant preacher?" thought John Fletcher.

He was a remarkable man and highly regarded by the people of his day. For many years he was Vicar of Madeley, which today is all part of Telford new town in Shropshire. At his funeral 2000 local people tried to get near his grave to pay their last respects.

Everybody expected John Fletcher to succeed John Wesley as the leader of Methodism. If he hadn't died so young, he would certainly have done so.

Today in Madeley parish Church there is a show case which contains many of the things John Fletcher used, together with some of his sermon notes. The large vicarage is also there, this was used by him as a school where he taught theology to his students; together with the prayer room which he described as the place where theory was translated into practice.

Like John Wesley, Fletcher travelled widely on horseback and under the guidance of God influenced our nation for good as its people listened to the news, "that God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving his life for all mankind." (the living Bible's paraphrase of 1 Timothy 2 5-6).

What a blessing it is to realise that people are still listening to that news in 1988 as they did in 1788 and in believing discovering their lives opened to the grace that God offers sinners.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark, Rebekah.

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 1988

Thursday, September 1st

7.30 p.m. Confirmation Class at the Vicarage.

Friday, September 2nd

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, September 4th — Trinity 14

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

Preacher: The Rev. Duncan McMann.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Wednesday, September 7th

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship at the Vicarage.

Thursday, September 8th

7.30 p.m. Confirmation Class at the Vicarage.

Friday, September 9th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, September 11th

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Monday, September 12th

Visit of the Partners in Mission Overseas Visitors.

Thursday, September 15th

7.30 p.m. Confirmation Class at the Vicarage.

Friday, September 16th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, September 18th

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Monday, September 19th

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

Wednesday, September 21st

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship at the Vicarage.

Thursday, September 22nd

7.30 p.m. Confirmation Class at the Vicarage.

Friday, September 23rd

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, September 25th — Trinity 17

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

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

Thursday, September 29th

7.30 p.m. Confirmation Class at the Vicarage.

Friday, September 30th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

ANSLEY LADIES' ASSOCIATION

At our last meeting we had a very good meal and evening at the Snitterfield Arms, Snitterfield and was enjoyed by all. Our next meeting will be on September 7th at the Church Hall at 8.00 p.m. Speaker will be Dr. Bland, W. M. Ponder

ANSLEY ST. LAURANCE AND ST. JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION

The enrolling member and committee had an at home meeting to discuss and plan the programme for the coming year. At a later date we hope to produce programmes for each member.

Our next meeting will be on September 6th in the Church Hall at 3.00 p.m., when the speaker will be Miss Thelma Burns. We would welcome any new members, W. M. Ponder

GOD'S ANSWERS

If what I ask is quite the best
For those for whom I pray,
My Father sends the answer "Yes,
I'll give you that to-day."
If what I ask would do some harm
To those for whom I pray,
My Father sends the answer "No,
You can't have that to-day."
If what I ask would do more good
If held back for a test,
My Father sends the answer "Wait,
I'll give it when it's best."

Submitted by Marie Cove

LOVE IS LIKE JAM

There is a lovely true story of a little old lady from the depths of rural Worcestershire. When she saw TV coverage of the riots at Handsworth near Birmingham she made up her mind not to leave the business of caring to others. So she packed ten of her best jars of strawberry jam and headed for the eye of the storm, determined to show that she loved and cared for the people in that torn community.

Much to everyone's surprise she found a warm welcome and stayed on in Handsworth for six months. "I received much more from the people than I could have ever given," she told members of her parish on her return. The lesson: love is like jam. The more you spread round, the more you are likely to get on yourself.

Very many thanks to the person who kindly dropped an envelope into the Vicarage yesterday (August 17th) containing £350 in notes. The envelope is marked "Ansley Church roof repairs." This generous gift from a person who wants to do this kindness anonymously is greatly appreciated and is very encouraging to us.

We have also received a cheque for £20 from a family in Yorkshire who read the June issue of our magazine in which the state of the roof is mentioned. That gift is particularly kind because they have had considerable expenses to face in their own Church building.

Spring Harvest 1989 is the name given to a Christian Convention meeting at three Butlins holiday centres next Spring. If you would like to consider joining other members of our congregation in attending this event at Skegness please ask for a brochure. 150,000 people were attracted to the event this year. Next year promises to be both a challenging and stimulating experience for all who want to catch a glimpse of the Church in our Nation.

CHURCHWARDENS APPEAL FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE DEATH WATCH BEETLE IN THE NAVE ROOF

This is proceeding gently and the Churchwardens are most grateful for cash received up to date and are eagerly looking for more. The total to date is £1,120.

The Death Watch Beetle is a popular name applied to a small beetle (*Xestobium rufohilosum*) which live in wood and make a ticking noise believed to foretell death. The noise is really a mating call. The ravages of this insect in furniture and old buildings is extensive, necessitating regular inspection and often wholesale reconstruction. This is why the Church in Ansley needs your urgent financial help.

Frank Arnold

Pathfinders recommence the Monday night meetings on September 12th at 6.45 p.m. in the hall.

House Meetings commence an Autumn programme this month. Details from the leaders: Diane Kealey, David Cove, George and Winnie Ponder.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Marriage "All that I am I give to you within the Love of God"

July 30—Christopher John Beale to Ruth Elizabeth Withington, both of Ansley Village.

Aug. 20—Kevin Frederick Ford of Hartshill to Deborah Ruth Woolliscroft of Ansley.

Aug. 20—Darren Andrew Thomas Bignell to Deborah Jane Bennett, both of Birchley Heath.