

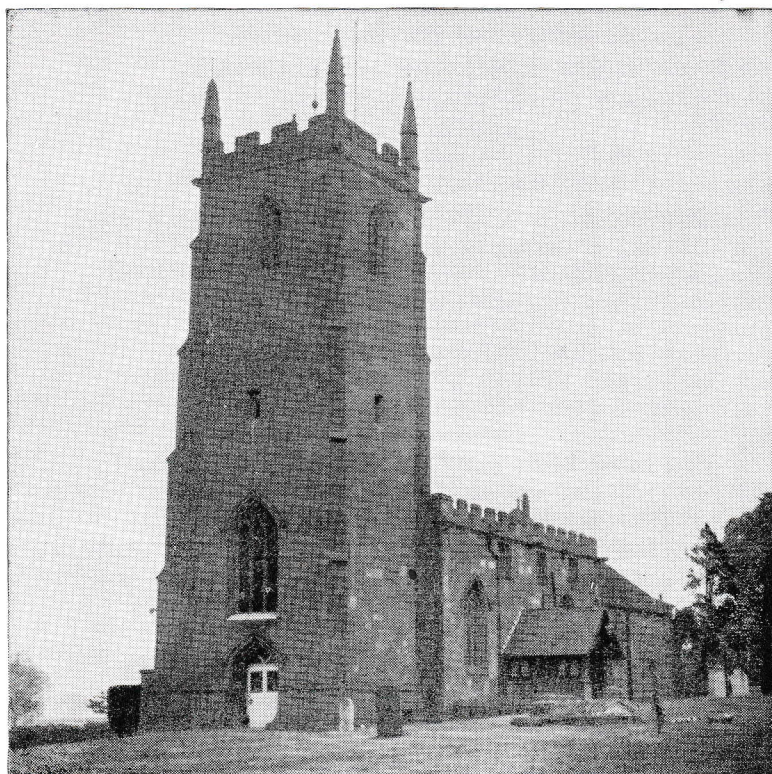
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 831

SEPTEMBER 1994

Price 20p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

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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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Ansley Vicarage,

1st September, 1994

Our Dear Friends,

Our 30th Flower Festival has presented the theme "Water" with the skill we have learnt to expect on these annual occasions. There is always a considerable number of people involved, not only in flower arranging, but in the many other necessary tasks. Thank you all so very much. We congratulate Margaret Antill who is mainly responsible for the Flower Festival achievement. She so ably inspires and leads us forward to make this event so worthwhile.

"You belong here," should be the sign outside our church building. Such a church is seen to be in business for those who are not yet members; welcoming them, helping them to feel a strong sense of belonging and meeting them at their point of need.

That is of course what the Lord wants to do, meet us at our point of need, bringing us into a belief that results in different behaviour and a distinctive life-style.

Bobby Ball (of Cannon and Ball fame) says in his book, 'My Life' "It's strange but when one comes into the Lord's presence and one hasn't been forgiven for one's sins, one has a feeling of not belonging, a sort of being an outsider feeling. It is the Devil who creates those feelings, because one is never an outsider to the Lord. The more one sins, the more the Lord cries and wants to forgive. But it is the Devil who tries to stop this by making us feel that we don't belong in Church. In fact we belong wherever the Lord is."

It was in November 1992 that Bobby's partner Tommy Cannon and his wife Hazel decided to go to Church to have their baby daughter dedicated to the Lord. It was the first time Tommy had been to Church for many a year. During the service an opportunity was given to those who felt that they wanted to be forgiven for their sins and make a commitment to the Lord. Tommy and Hazel responded to that invitation. "You could actually see that the weight had been lifted off Tommy's shoulders. The Lord performed a miracle that day," writes Bobby.

Of his own conversion Bobby explains that a friend read the book, 'Journey into life' to him after which he knew that he wanted to give his life to the Lord. "I was on my knees, something I hadn't done since I was a child," and began to pray that prayer.

"I knew that in His mercy He had forgiven me. I felt clean and alive for the first time in my life. A wonderful feeling of exhilaration, of belonging to God, I felt special."

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

The Renewal Service at Tile Hill in St. James Church is on Friday, September 30th at 7.30 p.m. The well-known house Church leader Gerald Coates is the guest preacher, his talk is entitled: 'What do we do with Prophecy?' The information leaflet reads: 'Many churches now have an expectation that God will speak prophetically to them. How can we test, interpret and act upon the things God is telling us?' Gerald Coates is an internationally famous speaker with wide experience of the prophetic in action.

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 4th

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Baptism. A.S.B.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, 1662 Prayer Book.

Tuesday, September 6th

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union in the Hall.

Sunday, September 11th

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

Wednesday, September 14th

- 8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies meeting in the Hall.

Sunday, September 18th

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

Wednesday, September 21st

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

Thursday, September 22nd

- 7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council meeting.

Sunday, September 25th

- 9.45 a.m. Family Service at St. John's.
- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, A.S.B.

Wednesday, September 28th

- 8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies meeting in the Hall.

Friday, September 30th

- 7.30 p.m. Renewal Service at St. James, Tile Hill.

Every Thursday

- 10.30 a.m. Mothers and Toddlers in the Village Church Hall.
- 6.30 p.m. Explorers in St. John's Church Hall.

Every Friday

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Thanksgiving 'They brought children to Jesus for Him to bless them.'
August 7—Kate Garret, of Galley Common.

Baptism 'To live by trust in God and to come to confirmation.'
August 21—Thomas John Sansome, of Ansley Village.

Holy Matrimony 'To be faithful so long as you both shall live'
July 30—John Lewis Richmond, of Newcastle-on-Tyne to Vanessa Tracy Winspeare, of Ansley Village.

August 13—Jonathan Swift, of Piper's Lane to Tracy Jane Morris, of Piper's Lane.

Ian Ronald Wood of Ansley Common to Sheila Margaret Batchelor, of Ansley Common.

August 20—Keith Martin Davies, of Ansley Village to Jane Anne Christian, of Ansley Village.

Funeral at the Crematorium 'Abide with me'

July 29—Arthur Stevenson, of Birchley Heath.

The Parochial Church Council meets at the Church on Thursday, September 22nd at 7.45 p.m. Items for the agenda should reach the chairman not later than 3 days before the meeting.

The Bible Week at 'Bethany,' home of Gordon and Ruth Chilvers was a great success. Held during the first week of the August holidays. Many of the children from Ansley Common always enjoy these meetings. We too are always glad that they make good use of the Church marquee.

Following the article on the work of Global Care in Rwanda in the June issue of our magazine, private donations have been sent and ideas of local fund raising have been suggested. The following comments from Global Care's President, Roy Castle, will encourage us further—My heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed so magnificently to our Rwanda Children's Emergency Appeal so far. In the past ten weeks £169,537 has been generously donated towards our target of £500,000. This is being used immediately to bring relief to suffering children and families within Rwanda itself. Look what has happened because you gave, (1) A team of nine Christian doctors, nurses and relief workers have put their lives on the line, working in appalling conditions in the war zone, (2) Truck loads of enriched food and vital medicines have been distributed at three camps south of Kigali. (3) Children who have been orphaned, lost or abandoned have been fed and cared for, and efforts have been made to trace their relatives. (4) Two planes loaded with medical supplies have been sent."

Global care was one of the first agencies to respond to the emergency situation, now described by the United Nations as the greatest and most appalling human crisis they have ever had to face.

A team assessed the situation and felt that help could be given most effectively and appropriately amongst the 3 million displaced people inside Rwanda itself at Bugesera, an area south of Kigali. They describe this as "one of the most needy areas" with many thousands of people, who have fled from the front line empty-handed, trying to survive in a dry and hostile environment.

In June Global Care's medical team implemented an emergency relief programme in the area of Bugesera to rescue the surviving victims of the civil war and distributed many tons of vital supplies from Uganda. Now with the return of refugees, the team is strategically placed to provide further help just where it is most needed.

In August the new government requested the immediate assistance of their medical team to resettle countless people. Thousands of litres of re-hydration fluids and antibiotics have been flown in.

It would be good if something can be sent from our parish. They are not just a mass of human flesh. They are our brothers and sisters—people just like you and me, with families, livelihoods, homes, hopes and dreams. Or at least they were. Now they are a people whose lives have been destroyed by fighting and quarrels in which they have no interest. For all they know, today may be their last.

Children's Open Air meetings in Birchley Heath during August were very enjoyable. We were glad to have the help of adults who led the games, the quizzes, and the competitions and assisting in the treasure hunt and especially the barbecue. Thank you to all who helped make these meetings so worthwhile.

Benefiting from the contributions made at our **Flower Festival** will be the **Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends** and **The Acorn Children's Hospice at Selly Oak** as well as our own Church funds. The amount so far received is £1000. Next month's magazine will tell us how it was distributed.

The Clock that so many contributed towards, as the expression of appreciation for the considerable work Frank Arnold did for our Church over many years, was presented to him last Wednesday, August 31st at the Oldbury Grange Nursing home where he now resides. This is a very suitable gift and will be a constant reminder to Frank of very happy and contented memories of the place where he really loved to be; and where he gave so much of his time, his wisdom, his energies, his best, and his devotion, and where he offered his prayers. Now are the days when it is our turn to pray for him that God will give him a sense of peace in the present and confidence in faith for the future.

The Wednesday Fellowship for prayer and Bible Study re-commences on September 21st, 8.00 p.m., at the Vicarage. All are welcome to join in the time of fellowship. At this fortnightly meeting an opportunity is given to make a contribution to the Bible Society.

Through no fault of their own, the organisation, "Christ for all nations," whose vision it was to have delivered to every door in Britain the Gospel booklet, "From Minus to Plus," failed, but is now able to complete the task. The homes in the parish missed out in the original distribution will soon be receiving one. Birchley Heath is the first part of our parish to receive the new delivery. It is worth noting that the original firm approached to make that delivery for Holy Week refused, their excuse being that the organisation would be unable to raise the required amount of money to meet their delivery charge. They were proved wrong however, "Christ for all nations" received ample gifts to meet all expenses.

Rita Graham is a colour Consultant. She advises women on the colour of clothes to wear that best suits them. A limited number of tickets will be available for the meeting at which she will give a demonstration. Book the date, Monday, December 5th at 7.00 p.m. Tickets available from Barbara Batts.

The Barbecue held in the Vicarage garden in aid of the Church Army, resulted in £128, £90 being sent to their Headquarters. A receipt is displayed on the Church Notice Board. It was a beautiful calm and warm summer evening. We do so very much thank all those who helped in many practical ways and for those who supported the event. Classical and Gospel music was provided by a trio, organ, guitar and violin; guests from the music group at West Bromwich Pentecostal Church.