

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 843

SEPTEMBER 1995

Price 20p



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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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1st September, 1995

Our Dear Friends,

A man once expressed his thoughts in the following way. A welder can take £50 worth of metal and make it worth £500—that's **skill**. Her Majesty's Mint can take a piece of paper and stamp it, and it becomes a £5 note—that's **authority**. An artist can take a cheap canvas and paint a picture on it making it worth thousands of pounds—that's **art**. A composer can take a piece of paper and write music upon it—that's **genius**. A millionaire can take a cheque book and write a cashable sum of many thousands of pounds—that's **wealth**. But only God can take a sinful life, transform it and make it into an asset to society—that's **mercy and grace**. It is not a figment of the imagination, but a factual transformation by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

It was Michelangelo, whose master pieces include sculptures, who once said, "There is an angel in that stone, I must let him out." There is a saint in every sinner, but only our Lord Jesus is capable of letting him out.

Nature forms us, but sin deforms us. Schools inform us, but only Christ can transform us. What a wonderful Saviour we have who can take lives stained with failure and sin and make them into New Creations.

A refreshing article appeared in the newspapers the other day reporting on the success of the Triple Jumper Jonathan Edwards with his 18.29 metre leap at Gothenburg. He readily acknowledges what God has done in his life. In addition to giving Jonathan a personal faith, God has also given him a talent. "God has given me the ability and would want me to use it. In the sporting world I have the opportunity to share my faith.

"All that I have achieved is by the grace of God. When I remember how unsure of myself and timid I was; it was all God's provision. Observe how Alison, my wife, arrived from the far reaches of Scotland whilst I arrived from the distant South West to meet at Heaton Baptist Church.

"Now I've no problems about making money but I ask God for strength to deal with it and handle it. What is important is my attitude to it and to be a good steward of it."

A favourite Bible verse of his is from Isaiah 40, 'Have you not known, have you not heard, the everlasting God Jehovah, Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is He weary.' "God is not tired of us," comments Jonathan, "for at the point of weakness He gave me strength. He has been with me through the ups and downs and has transformed my life and brought me to this tremendous place where I can present the Gospel to people."

Let us determine to commit ourselves to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and continually know His transforming Power.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 3rd

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer, A.S.B.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, B.C.P.

Tuesday, September 5th

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Sunday, September 10th

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

Monday, September 11th

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council.

Sunday, September 17th

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

Tuesday, September 19th

7.30 p.m. Deanery Synod.

Thursday, September 21st

8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Parish Day of Prayer.

Sunday, September 24th

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

Thursday, September 28th

7.30 p.m. Bishop's Lecture at the Cathedral.

Every Tuesday

10.00 a.m. Senior Citizens in the Village Church Hall.
6.00 p.m. Children's Meeting.

Every Thursday

10.30 a.m. Mums and Toddlers in Ansley Village Church Hall.
6.30 p.m. Young People's Club, St. John's Hall, Ansley Common.

Every Friday

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Her Majesty's Prison. HMP Lewes is a remand prison on the Sussex coast. Dave Powe has been chaplain there since April last year and in that time some 200 prisoners, wives, friends and staff have made professions of faith in Christ. David and his team are busy daily coping with prisoners desperate for answers to their problems. They are given a simple, direct answer: Jesus Christ Pray for this ministry. John 4 : 35.

Children's Open Air Meetings in Birchley Heath during August were very enjoyable though small in number this year. Many were away on holiday. We were grateful to the adults who gave an helping hand. **The Bible Week** on Tuesdays in August at Gordon and Ruth Chilvers' home and gardens for the Ansley Common children proved a great blessing. This summer ministry has been going on for a considerable number of years. Those who are now adults remember with joy the happy times they had as children at these summer meetings. We pray for a spiritual impact upon our children of today.

DO YOU JUST BELONG ?

Are you an active member the kind that would be missed;
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list ?
Do you attend the worship, singing with the crowd,
Or do you stay at home and criticise out loud ?
Do you take an active part to help the Church along;
Or are you satisfied to be the kind who just belong ?
Do you ever visit those members who are sick ?
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique ?
There's quite a programme scheduled that means success if done;
But it can only be accomplished with the help of everyone,
Present yourself to God, and help with hand and heart,
Don't be just an onlooker, but take prayerful part,
Think it over parishioner would you be weak or strong ?
Yes! when we build the Kingdom and not just belong.

We hope you managed to look in on the Flower Festival this year. If you did I'm sure you will have been impressed with the displays depicting the theme **Commands**. A lot of hard and enjoyable work goes into this annual event together with a great deal of fresh enthusiasm, all of which was clearly evident again this year. Thanks has been expressed on several occasions especially at the Monday night finale, to the many who have given considerable time and energy, it is appreciated. Benefiting from the contributions made at this year's 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. Next month's magazine will tell us how it was apportioned. Total income was £1000.09.

The Wednesday Fellowship for prayer and Bible Study recommences on September 20th at 8.00 p.m., in the Vicarage. All are welcome to join in this time of fellowship. At this fortnightly meeting an opportunity is given to make a contribution to the Bible Society.

The Barbecue on the Common at Birchley Heath in the evening of Saturday, August 19th was a very memorable occasion. The lovely warm evening enabled many to linger till dusk. We are all most grateful to the willing team of hard workers who made the occasion possible. The generosity of those who gave the food. The kindness of the Atherstone Scouts who lent us the barbecue, the music, the games and the fellowship all made for a good time. The heaviest cost was the insurance of the marquee for £41, nevertheless after all expenses were met, there was still a profit of £56. It was generally agreed to put this to the new building fund.

The Parochial Church Council meets in the Village Church Hall on Monday, September 11th at 7.45 p.m. Items for the agenda should reach the Chairman at least three days before the meeting.

Advance Notice. Book in your diary the date Thursday, December 14th, 10.00 a.m. Coffee Morning at Ansley Social Club. The guest speaker will be Fiona Castle, Fiona, whose husband Roy (the well loved T.V. star) died earlier this year, lives at Gerrards Cross in

Buckinghamshire. Further details of the event will appear in the following issues of the magazine.

An Invitation from our Bishop, Tom Wright, now Dean of Lichfield, is coming on **Thursday, September 28th** to give **The Bishop's Lecture for 1995**, at 7.30 p.m., in Coventry Cathedral. The title of his lecture is: **THE BIBLE FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD**. An exploration of some fresh understandings of the Bible and fresh approaches to it.

Some of you may know Tom Wright's excellent books such as, "Who was Jesus?" (an answer to sceptical critics of the Gospels), and "The Crown and the Fire—Meditations on the Cross." He has a way of enlivening and inspiring his hearers when speaking about the Bible which is very special.

I do urge you will come and bring as many people from your parish as you can with you to what could be an significant event in the life of the Diocese. I am quite certain that no-one will go away without being given a fresh approach to their study of the Bible.

Prayer Day. The Church will be open all day from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., for those who value the time of quiet prayer in Church. Some people come just for a few minutes, others for an hour or more. If you can make it for a specific time then do please add your name to the rota, enabling us to know that there will be someone there at all times of the day. This special day is on Thursday, Sept. 21st.

The Church Diary for 1996 is now on sale at 40p. Two copies 70p. Three copies for £1. You will find useful information included. It is an ideal size for a handbag or pocket. Why not include one in a Christmas stocking to your friends, etc.

FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

Holy Matrimony. "Till death us do part"

August 5—Paul Betteridge of Camphill to Samantha Preston of Nuthurst Crescent.

Funeral. "The Lord is my Shepherd"

At the Crematorium

August 18—Mary Whitmore, 81 years, of Ansley Common.

The Mums and Toddlers group re-commences this month on Thursday 7th at 10.30 a.m. All mums with their little children are most welcome. An interesting programme is planned for this Autumn with a variety of activities for the toddlers.

The Young People's Club gets under way again this month with a programme which we trust will be absorbing, challenging and satisfying for them.

We offer our deepest sympathy to the Lyon family from Nuthurst Crescent in the tragic loss of their son Stephen on August 26th. We remember them in prayer.