

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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No. 855

SEPTEMBER 1996

Price 20p

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**Vicar:**

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

**Honorary Church Army Evangelist:**

Mrs. CATHERINE A. JASPER

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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, 1996

Our Dear Friends,

In 1837 three young men, James Calvert, John Hunt, Thomas Jagger, and their wives set out from England for the Fiji Islands. Theirs was a difficult assignment. They were going to teach the Christian faith to cannibals. After eight years of hard work there was very little result. Then in 1845 Chief Thakombau, who had been the main opponent of Christianity, was converted. Within a few years a complete transformation of the islands had taken place as the Gospel took hold of the people there.

The captain of the ship that took the three English couples from England tried to persuade them to change their minds about going to the islands. He told Calvert, "You will lose your lives and the lives of those with you if you go among such savages." Calvert replied, "We died before we came here."

The other Sunday morning a young man, Matt Roper, preached to us and shared the vision God had given to him. This month Matt goes out to Brazil. The vision he has is to pioneer work amongst the abandoned and destitute street children in remote towns of the Amazon region. These children are regarded as 'vermin' and many are shot. Matt described the near misses he had last year whilst looking into the challenge there. The depth of his commitment equals that of the missionaries to Fiji.

Matt said that the first time he visited the Amazon he was immediately struck by the incredible beauty of that part of the world—the rain forest, the vast river, the stunning white beaches, the sunsets; but he soon came to realise that this beauty covered up a terrible ugliness—crippling poverty, the abuse and abandonment of children, the trafficking of children for prostitution where they are auctioned like slaves. During those few weeks, God spoke to him like never before, and gave him a vision for a programme of rescue and rehabilitation of children abandoned or exploited.

Land and property has been made available and hundreds of Churches throughout the Amazon basin are being of practical help. The project will be officially linked with the Jubilee Campaign, a parliamentary human rights group with the support of over 200 M.P's of the British Parliament which campaigns especially for street children. This group is extremely influential, both at a political level and with the Christian and secular press here.

The morning congregation found Matt's sermon very moving, rivetting, and challenging. Our interest, prayers, and financial backing for this ambitious project is essential.

A street boy asked, "Am I a person?" People had told him he was garbage. Matt realised that the Creator of all the breathtaking beauty of the Majestic Amazon cares more for the tiny malnourished baby and the dirty street child who is often not recognised as a person by law. God values those lives, and agonises over their distress and suffering.

May we too show a concern in a practical manner,

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.



## DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

### **Sunday, September 1st**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1662 Prayer Book),  
10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (1980 Prayer Book),  
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (1662 Prayer Book).

### **Tuesday, September 3rd**

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union Harvest Service and Produce Stall in Church Hall,

### **Saturday, September 7th**

6.30 p.m. Barbecue in aid of the Church Army.

### **Sunday, September 8th**

10.30 a.m. Family Communion. Preacher: Mrs. Joe Shelton.  
6.30 p.m. Evening Service, Preacher: Mrs. Joe Shelton.

### **Sunday, September 15th**

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

### **Thursday, September 19th**

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council meeting,

### **Saturday, September 21st**

Open Day at Nursery Hill School,

### **Sunday, September 22nd**

9.45 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.  
10.30 a.m. Family Communion.  
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (1980 Prayer Book).

### **Wednesday, September 25th**

7.30 p.m. Dinner to launch 'Alpha' Course, Speaker: Mr. Colin Brown.

### **Sunday, September 29th**

10.30 a.m. Family Communion,  
6.30 p.m. Guest Service.

### **Every Week in the Village Church Hall**

**Tuesday** 10.00 a.m. Senior Citizens. 6.00 p.m. Children's Club.  
8.00 p.m. Youth Club.

**Thursday** 10.30 a.m. Mums and Toddlers,

### **Every Week in St. John's Church Hall**

**Tuesday & Thursday** 9.30 a.m. Playgroup,

**Wednesday** 7.30 p.m. Youth Club.

**Thursday** 6.30 p.m. Explorers,

**Meet for Prayer in Church** every Friday at 6.45 p.m. and 10.00 a.m.,  
each Sunday morning; 6.00 p.m. each Sunday evening.

**The 32nd Flower Festival** has been an outstanding success. Without the enthusiastic leadership of Margaret Antill and the large supporting team, the event could not take place. Planning and preparation; design and development over the last 12 months are the necessary ingredients that obviously make for success. Thank you Margaret and all who have been involved in it. The finale provided a fitting conclusion on Monday evening. Thank you Margaret Kimberley for organising the programme and those who took part in it especially the children.

**Marie Cove.** It is 22 years since Marie Cove restarted the Sunday School in the old Vicarage, and she has been its leader ever since.

A generation has grown up under Marie's guidance and that of her loyal helpers. Marie has now 'retired' and the P.C.C. have agreed that it is only fitting that we have a collection so that a grateful congregation and former pupils can show a token of their appreciation for all the hard and faithful work done over so many years. Any donations please to members of the P.C.C., before the end of September.

It was also unanimously agreed that former pupils be invited to contribute and attend the Morning Harvest Festival Service on October 13th, when we can thank God for Marie's service and a suitable presentation can be made.

We also express our appreciation to Margaret Oliver who along with others has helped with the Sunday School for a good number of years and is also retiring at this time. Margaret Antill

**You are all very welcome to a Barbecue** in aid of the Church Army which takes place in the Vicarage Garden on Saturday, September 7th at 6.30 p.m. Should the weather be unsuitable for the garden we shall have it in the Village Church Hall.

**David Cove** writes about the four day canal trip holiday he and John Brandrick led together with Keith Mashiter of the Church Army for eight 12 to 15 year old boys in July, commencing from Bedworth.

"As the time got nearer to sailing the doubts began to creep in. What if this happened? What if that happened? What should have been in my mind was the trip was what God wanted and He had blessed it. The power of God was with us.

"It had been decided it was a holiday first and only half an hour last thing at night for religion. With John and myself taking it in turns, we always ran over the half an hour as the lads had loads of questions.

"Everyone helped themselves to breakfast and tea. The two leaders made the main meal which we all sat down to and Grace was said. Forty loaves of bread and fifty tins of beans were eaten over the four days. I've never seen kids eat like them.

"What gave us the most joy was how the lads came to accept prayer and to moderate their language," David Cove

**On the second Sunday** of this month Mrs. Joe Shelton speaks to us at both the morning and evening services. She comes to introduce to us the **Parish External Partners Scheme** commenced in the diocese by the Bishop and Archdeacons. Teams of three people are visiting parishes to survey the strengths and weaknesses, meet the key people, pinpoint talents and offer suggestions of using them to the full potential. Our Church Council has already met Mrs. Shelton. We look forward to her visit.

**The Church Council** meets in the Village Church Hall on Thursday, September 19th at 7.45 p.m.

**Nursery Hill School** has been extensively altered and enlarged during the recent months. On Wednesday, 18th The Right Honorable Viscount Daventry H.M, Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire does the Official Opening at 2.00 p.m. Members of the community, parents and friends are welcome to the Open Day on Saturday, September 21st.

**The Alpha Course**, which commences next month, is introduced by Mr. Colin Brown at a special Dinner in the Village Church Hall on Wednesday, September 25th at 7.30 p.m. Church members and friends are most welcome to come to the Dinner. There will be no obligation to join the course. At the end of the evening those wanting to join the course will have the opportunity to sign up.

To adequately cater we will need to know the number of people to expect please let the Wardens know or us at the Vicarage.

**Guest Service** gives the opportunity for the evening congregation to choose their favourite hymns. Do let George Ponder have your choice.

**We record** with very grateful thanks the receipt of the gift of £1000 to the Fabric Fund from the will of the late Mrs. Mary Hall. Mary was member of our Church from childhood. Latterly she lived at Hartshill.

#### **THIS MONTH'S PRAYER DIARY**

Cut this prayer guide out, place in your Bible and use it each day.

**Sunday** "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath Day." Ex. 20.8

Pray for the regular Sunday Services.

**Monday** Jesus said: "Let the children come to me."

Pray for our children in the parish, especially those attending Sunday School and the mid-week clubs.

**Tuesday** Jesus said "When the Holy Spirit comes on you; you will be filled with power."

Pray for our Senior Citizens and Outreach to Youth, "Mothers and Toddlers."

**Wednesday** "All believers were gathered together" Acts 2,

Pray for the "Alpha" Course and all involved in it.

**Thursday** "God so loved the World."

Pray for those in T.E.A.R. fund and for Bible Society throughout the World.

**Friday** "They listened to the message with great eagerness."

Remember those who place Bibles in guest houses, prisons, schools, hospitals, H.M. forces.

**Saturday** "Do all to the Glory of God," for those who relax today.

Pray for your leisure time pursuits and hobbies. Books you read, programmes you watch.

#### **THE BISHOP'S LECTURE 1996**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 7.30 p.m. — COVENTRY CATHEDRAL**

I invite you to the Bishop's Lecture on Friday, September 27th to be given by The Right Reverend Michael Marshall, the Archbishop's Adviser for Evangelism. The title of his lecture is:

#### **Reaffirming the three-fold witness of Anglicanism**

—an Anglicanism beyond conservatism and liberalism which is catholic, evangelism and charismatic.