

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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No. 832

OCTOBER 1994

Price 20p

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**Vicar:**

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**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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Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel.: (0203) 382902

1st October, 1994

Our Dear Friends,

Two things stand out for many people who come to our church for Harvest Thanksgiving. One is the fragrance from the fruit, flowers and vegetables. The other is the beauty of the gifts that are brought. These two things together make our Church very special at this important annual festival.

'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it they will be yours for food.' These words from the Bible help us to marvel at the scope of God's generosity.

Harvest time is an occasion for thanksgiving as the Prayer Book puts it, 'We give Thee thanks for all Thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men.'

Harvest time is also an opportunity for responding to God's generosity as that same prayer concludes, 'that we show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives by giving up ourselves to Thy service.'

This prayer shows us that harvest is all about giving. It is a time for Thanksgiving and self giving. A time for celebrating and sacrificing. A time to enjoy God's good gifts and a time to meet the needs of others.

One of the harvest Bible readings from Deuteronomy chapter 26 and verse 11 says, 'Be grateful for all the good things that the Lord has given you and your family,' and verse 12 adds, 'give to the orphans and the widows so that in every community they will have all they need to eat.'

Harvest Festival rightly celebrated must always include helping those who are starving. But our culture persuades us to accumulate possessions and wealth. Harvest-time challenges that concept. It persuades us to respond to God's love with sacrificial generous giving. For some of us that might be a sum of money, for others it might be possessions, for others it might be the gift of ourselves, or the privilege of seeing our children give themselves to serve God overseas in a third world country or in one of the inner cities in our own land.

It is beyond our comprehension to imagine the nightmare experienced by those Rwandans who abandoned homes and harvests in terror as fighting tore their country apart. Apparently that was by more than half the population. As many as two million people may have been killed. Still more are dying of disease in refuge camps and facing starvation. They need to go home, harvest their crops, bury their dead and rebuild their communities.

Out of our plenty we can help those who have stepped in to do what can be done as a remedy for broken hearts, wounded souls and crushed spirits; and those are the local church people in Burundi, Tanzania and Ziare as they have so gallantly responded to the crisis by sheltering refugees, distributing food and administering medicines.

Envelopes will be in the pews giving us the opportunity to get alongside our brothers and sisters.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.



## DIARY FOR OCTOBER

### **Saturday, October 1st**

10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Plant Sale in the Village Church Hall.

### **Sunday, October 2nd**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer A.S.B.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer 1662 P.B.

### **Monday, October 3rd**

7.30 p.m. P.C.C. Members at the Vicarage.

### **Tuesday, October 4th**

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

### **Wednesday, October 5th**

8.00 p.m. T.E.A.R. craft evening & refreshments at the Vicarage.

### **Saturday, October 8th**

10.00 a.m. onwards. Harvest gifts received at the Church.

### **Sunday, October 9th — HARVEST FESTIVAL**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Children's Harvest Service and Communion.

6.30 p.m. HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

Preacher: The Rev. Peter Canning.

### **Monday, October 10th**

7.30 p.m. HARVEST SALE in the Village Church Hall.

### **Wednesday, October 12th**

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

### **Thursday, October 13th**

6.30 p.m. HARVEST FESTIVAL at St. John's with the 'Cruppets' Puppet Theatre.

### **Friday, October 14th — Day of Prayer**

### **Sunday, October 16th**

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

### **Wednesday, October 19th**

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

### **Sunday, October 23rd**

9.45 a.m. Family Service at St. John's.

10.30 a.m. Sunday School Thanksgiving Service.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer A.S.B.

### **Wednesday, October 26th**

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

### **Sunday, October 30th**

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Guest Service.

### **Monday, October 31st**

7.45 p.m. P.C.C. Meeting, Ansley Village Church Hall.

**Every 2nd Monday**—6.30 p.m. Children's Club, Village Church Hall.

**Every Tuesday**—7.30 p.m. Youth Club, Village Church Hall.

**Every Thursday**—10.30 a.m. Mother's and Toddlers, Village Church Hall.

**Every Thursday**—6.30 p.m. Explorers, St. John's Hall.

**Every Friday**—6.45 p.m. Meeting for prayer in Church.

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

**Baptism**—"To claim these promises for himself when he comes to Confirmation."

September 4—Carl Matthew Percival of Ansley Common.

**Blessing of Marriage**—"The Blessing of the Lord makes glad."

September 14—James William Morley of Hood Lane, Ansley, and  
Lyndsay Jane McKay of Turriff, Aberdeen.

September 24—Michael Dylan Kennedy and Justine Tracy Bourne.  
Both of High Wycombe, Bucks.

**Holy Matrimony**—"From this day forward."

September 24—Gary Robert Smith, of Nuneaton to Deborah Jane  
Stain of Galley Common.

**Funeral**—"The Valley of the Shadow of Death."

September 5—Beatrice Laura Rogers, 86 years, of Ridge Lane,  
formerly of Birchley Heath.

**St. Laurence Church Sunday School** was restarted on October 21st, 1974 and to celebrate these twenty years, you are invited to the **THANKSGIVING SERVICE** on Sunday, October 23rd, at 10.30 a.m. Marie, who has been doing this vital work amongst our children for all these years, has sent out an invitation to all the past children who have attended St. Laurence Sunday School from the first day. All the teachers who have been involved are also invited. This promises to be a very happy and stimulating service to which we all look forward.

**House Communions.** Do please let me know if you would like a service in your home should you be unable to get to worship in Church.

**On Monday, October 3rd, 7.30 p.m.,** at the Vicarage the members of the P.C.C. and their spouses are invited to a musical coffee evening. We trust that this will have a snow-ball effect because it is to commence fund-raising for the new room and toilets at Church End.

**TEARCRAFT EVENING AND REFRESHMENTS.** What shall we buy them this Christmas? Solve some of your Christmas present problems and help the poor countries, Wednesday, October 5th at 8.00 p.m., at the Vicarage.

**The Christian Puppet Theatre "THE CRUPPETS"** comes to St. John's Ansley Common on Thursday, October 13th for the **HARVEST SERVICE**. They first came to us for the Pathfinder Birthday, so we look forward to their return, Refreshments will be served at the close.

**Ansley Mothers' Union** meet on October 4th at 3.00 p.m., in the Church Hall. Members to bring goods for an Harvest Sale — new members welcome.

**Ansley Ladies** meet on October 12th at 8.00 p.m., in the Church Hall. A Knitwear Sale.

October 26th the A.G.M.—all members are asked to attend.

W. M. Ponder

**Gifts of Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers** will be most welcome for the **Harvest Festival**. Most help will be needed on Saturday morning to help decorate the Church, but work will commence on Friday. Do ring Margaret Antill if you can help—0827 874520. Baskets of fruit will be specially welcome.

**Our guest preacher** at the Harvest Sunday evening thanksgiving will be the Rev, Peter Canning who is the Vicar of Hartshill. We give him a warm welcome to this his first visit to Ansley.

**Harvest Sale** will be held in the Village Church Hall on Monday, October 10th at 7.30 p.m. We shall once again have the pleasure of Stan Forryan's salesmanship techniques and thank him in advance. Refreshments will also be served and a pleasant evening is assured.

**Five Sundays** in this month and that means that we have our Guest Service at 6.30 p.m., on Sunday, October 30th. Choose your favourite hymns and place your choice in the suggestion box on the literature table.

**Christmas Bazaar** is planned for Saturday, December 10th. Holly wreaths will be available. Please let us have your order, and they will be ready for collection at the Bazaar.

**Day of Prayer.** The Church will be open from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., on Friday, October 14th. Please put your name on the rota, this will enable us to ensure continual prayer all day and that at least one person will be in Church at any one time, so that others who want to come for a few moments will be able to do so.

**Flower Festival 1994.** Many thanks to everyone who gave and helped with this year's Flower Festival. With the co-operation by a great many people all the proceedings went well. (My apologies to Stan and Romaine Forryan for failing to pick them up on the Monday evening). The wonderful total of £1000 for our 30th Festival will be divided as follows: £200 to the Nuneaton Hospitals League of Friends Scanner Appeal; £200 to The Acorn Children's Hospice at Selly Oak; and the remainder for Church funds. Representatives of both organisations are coming to Church for the 6.30 p.m. service on the 16th when the donations will be made.

I would be grateful for empty 12oz. or 1lb. jam jars with screw lids at any time. Please bring them to Church if you wish, and I will collect them.

Margaret Antill

**The new building.** At the P.C.C. meeting it was agreed that the new building will be sited by the existing toilets. We are now in the early stages of getting planning permission. We have been advised that the building will cost some where about £30,000 to £35,000 and we are now appealing for help to raise this sum. Any one who wishes to make a donation or hold an event for this project please see any member of the P.C.C. More details of events and the appeal progress will feature in later magazines.

Margaret Antill

**Church Car Park.** As there have been a number of incidents in the Church grounds at Church End, particularly over the last year, the P.C.C. have had to make the regrettable decision to fence off the car park and lock all vehicular access to the Church. We accept this will be an inconvenience to us all. The two pedestrian gates, one by Lion House and under the lamp will, of course, remain unlocked, thus enabling access to the public footpath and for those wishing to attend graves. If you do see anything suspicious please report it, as we like many others are experiencing security problems. We hope you will understand the dilemma we have been faced with and support our efforts.

Margaret Antill