

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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**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 October, 1995

Our Dear Friends,

It was on Thursday evening September 21st a large number of us met in the 'Rec' at the spot where one week earlier Naomi was savagely murdered.

We were all glad to be there, just simply because we felt we needed to be there. All of us with heavy hearts, hurting and mourning and with special concern for Naomi's grieving parents Brian and Catherine and all the family.

We remembered, and gave thanks for Naomi's short life of 15 years, for the joy she brought to her family and friends and also to the community; her love for little children, her concern for others before herself and for her joy of life.

These are sorrowful days aren't they. Days of mourning because of the darkness, violence, and rebellion of our society. These are murderous times where life is cheap and lightly valued.

We are a community invaded, insulted and violated by an indescribable evil that makes it impossible for an innocent, trusting, charming young lady to go and post a letter.

What depths have we reached—how much lower can we get? How accurate the prophet Hosea describes our country and situation, "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds and bloodshed follows bloodshed. Because of this the land mourns."

What can we do? We can bear each others burdens, we can mourn with those who mourn, yes and weep with those who weep, we can be kind to each other, we can ask the Lord to build us up again into a community of people who trust each other. We must not forget Brian and Catherine's deep, deep wound. Don't be silent when you meet them, talk to them about their beloved Naomi. Support them and help them. We know that there are many that are doing that. Let's encourage one another to keep doing it.

Perhaps a garden of remembrance could be made of the place where she lay and the slide moved a bit further over. I wonder if we could all make a contribution towards meeting the cost of that? There are some expert gardeners in Bretts Hall estate who, I know, would be only too pleased to keep it neat and the children could help in putting their own plants there.

Such a garden would be a hallowed spot in memory of Naomi, and a solemn reminder to us all of our daily need of the grace and love of God.

Lord, make us new people,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.



## PARISH CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

### Sunday, October 1st

- 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, October 3rd

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

### Wednesday, October 4th

- 8.00 p.m. Dr. Tony Campolo at Birmingham Town Hall. (Prior booking essential I would think).

### Friday & Saturday, October 6th & 7th

- Church open for harvest decoration.

### Sunday, October 8th—HARVEST FESTIVAL

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, Preacher: The Rev. Geoffrey Kimber, Rector of Arley.

### Monday, October 9th

- 7.30 p.m. Harvest Sale, Ansley Village Church Hall.

### Wednesday, October 11th

- 7.30 p.m. Deanery Prayer Evening at the Bishop's House Chapel. (Book your seat in advance).

### Friday & Saturday, October 13th & 14th

- Plant Sale, Ansley Village Church Hall.

### Sunday, October 15th

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

### Wednesday, October 18th

- 7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council at St. John's, Ansley Common.

### Sunday, October 22nd

- 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, October 25th

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

### Sunday, October 29th

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

### Every Tuesday

- 10.00 a.m. Senior Citizens, Ansley Village Church Hall.
- 6.00 p.m. Children's Club, Ansley Village Church Hall.

### Every Thursday

- 10.30 a.m. Mums and Toddlers, Ansley Village Church Hall.
- 6.30 p.m. Explorers, St. John's Hall, Ansley Common.
- 7.45 p.m. Youth Club, St. John's Hall, Ansley Common.

### Every Friday

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

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child

"Jesus laid His hands upon them and blest them."

September 17—George Sutton from Park Cottages,

Austen James Morley from Hood Lane Farm.

### Holy Matrimony

"To love, cherish and worship,"

September 9—Ian Evans of Ansley Common to Hayley Jones of Camp Hill,

September 13—Richard James Hooper of Kenilworth to Glynis Davison of Ansley Village,

September 16—Christopher Leslie Dexter to Nichola Jane Pittam both of Ansley Village.

### Internment of Ashes

September 19—Mary Bailey, 63 years of Windmill Road, Nuneaton.

**Confirmation Classes** have begun, should any others want to join us they will be welcome.

**Gifts of fruit, vegetables and flowers** will be most welcome for our **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 — 01827 874520. Baskets of fruit will be specially welcome.

**Our Guest Preacher** at the Harvest Sunday evening service of thanksgiving will be the Revd, Geoffrey Kimber, Rector of Arley. We give him a warm welcome to our harvest.

**The Harvest Sale** will be held in the Village Church Hall on Monday, October 9th at 7.30 p.m. We shall once again have the pleasure of Stan Forryan's Salesmanship techniques and thank him most warmly in advance. Refreshments will be served, enabling the evening to be pleasant and profitable.

**Five Sundays** in this month and that means that we have our Guest Service at 6.30 p.m., on Sunday, October 29th. Choose your favourite hymns and place your choice in the suggestion box on the literature table.

**Christmas Bazaar** is planned for Saturday, December 9th. Holly Wreaths will be available. Please let us have your order, and they will be ready for collection at the Bazaar.

**A new booklet** on the history of the Church has been written by Rita Callwood and is selling at 50p per copy. We do thank Rita who put in considerable time and effort to make this booklet available for us. It is on sale in Church from the literature table.

**Parochial Church Council** meets at St. John's Church Hall, Ansley Common on Wednesday, October 18th at 7.45 p.m. Items for the agenda should reach the Chairman at least 3 days before the meeting.

**Flower Festival.** I wish to say a personal thank you to everyone who helped make the 1995 Flower Festival the wonderful success it was, not only in financial terms, but for the general good and enjoyment it brought to the parish and our many visitors. So many united and helped in so many different ways in giving of their time, in kind, or

financially; from the quiet days in early Spring when the required seeds were planted, through all the weeks the work building up to the festival itself and the finale on the Monday evening. Without the contributions from all it would not have been so successful. To everyone from Ansley and beyond I say a heartfelt thank you.

Margaret Antill.

**At our September P.C.C.** meeting it was decided to donate £250 to the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and £250 to the Acorn Children's Hospice from the total of £1016.09 received at the Flower Festival. The remainder will go to the Church Funds. Cheques will be given to representatives of the League of Friends and the Acorn Children's Hospice during the Harvest Festival Evening Service.

**"October Hymn-Sing"** The "Sponsored Hymn-Sing" scheduled to take place after the Harvest Evensong on October 8th will use the same format as our last one—nearly 7 years ago now!

The idea is to sing as many hymns as we can in a specified time—half an hour. To increase the possible number we sing 2 verses of a 4 lined verse hymn and only one verse of the 6 or 8 lined ones.

Everyone can participate or feel part of the venture by either—

- (a) Making sure your favourite hymn is on the list in the porch.
- (b) Coming and swelling the volume of singing on October 8th.
- (c) Sponsoring yourself or someone else.
- (d) Taking a sponsor form to collect sponsors from a wider community.
- (e) Doing all of the above!

All the suggested hymns/hymn numbers will be put into a bucket and then we'll sing the hymns in the order they are pulled out.

Our last combined effort raised just over £500 to help with the "Dreaded Beetle" repair bill. Let us hope we can match that total again.

Margaret Kimberley.

#### **In memory of NAOMI**

**Can life ever be the same again By Marie Cove**

A day of grief, agonizing pain,  
Can life ever be normal, ever the same?  
A quiet village, where children play,  
One evil deed took it all away.

A young life cut short in a moment of time,  
Parents and family shattered by crime,  
Community and school friends numb with pain,  
Will their lives ever be the same again?

But our Lord is here so hold out your hand,  
He'll bring Naomi to the promised land,  
While here on earth His spirit He'll send,  
To comfort the sad, His loving arms lend.

Lord send away our darkness, let the storm clouds part,  
Wipe away each tear and mend each broken heart.  
Be our Rock to which we can cling,  
'Til to your Haven You will us bring.