

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 856

OCTOBER 1996

Price 20p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

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The Vicarage, Ansley Village, Nuneaton CV10 9PS

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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,

October 1st, 1996

Our Dear Friends,

It was Prince Charles who recently said, "That for all the advances of science there remains deep in the soul (if I dare use that word) a persistent and unconscious anxiety that something is missing, some ingredient that makes life worth living."

Bernard Levin, the broadcaster and columnist for many years, admits the same problem and expresses it in this way, "Why do I have to know why I was born? Because I am unable to believe that my birth was an accident; and if it wasn't an accident, it must have meaning. Even happy families with material comforts have an overriding awareness that there is a hole inside them and that, however much food and drink they pour into it, however many motor cars and television sets they stuff that hole with, however many well balanced children and loyal friends they parade around, they know that the hole inside of them aches."

Some people spend much of their lives looking for something that will give them meaning and purpose to life. Leo Tolstoy, the author of 'War and Peace' constantly asked "Why do I live?" As he looked around at his contemporaries he saw that people were not facing up to these questions, What is life about? Where am I going? Eventually he found that the peasant people of Russia had been able to answer these questions through their Christian faith and Tolstoy came to realise that only in Jesus Christ do we find the answer

Some people wear a deceptive smile that covers up the anxiety, that aching hole, about how we really feel; others hum a cheerful song like this one that was very popular during World War 1 and for many years afterwards:

What's the use of worrying?
It never was worthwhile,
So, pack up your troubles
In your old kit-bag
And smile, smile, smile.

These words were written by George Powell and set to a cheerful melody by his brother Felix. But there came a day when Felix Powell played his well-known melody Smile, Smile, Smile then picked up a gun and shot himself.

Troubles, emptiness and aching hearts cannot be magically forgotten. A smile and a song may camouflage deep unhappiness, but only God can lift the burden of that gnawing worry from our hearts

It is because of this universal problem that an opportunity to explore these common basic questions like 'What is the point of my life?', 'What happens when we die?', 'How do we deal with guilt?' etc., is given to us in a series beginning on Wednesday, 9th October at 7.30 p.m., at Ansley Village Church Hall. We'll begin with refreshments and ask any questions. Do make a point of turning up!

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 1st

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Friday & Saturday, October 4th & 5th

10.00 a.m. till 4.00 p.m. Plant Sale, Village Church Hall.

Sunday, October 6th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

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

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. 1662 Prayer Book.

Wednesday, October 9th

7.30 p.m. The Alpha Course.

Friday, October 11th

2.00 till 5.00 p.m. Church open for harvest decoration.

Saturday, October 12th

10.00 a.m. Church open for harvest decoration.

Sunday, October 13th — Harvest Festival

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Family Communion, T.E.A.R. theme.

6.30 p.m. Festival Evensong, Preacher: The Rev. Canon Guy Cornwall-Jones, Priest-in-Charge of Leek Wootton.

Monday, October 14th

10.00 a.m. Nursery Hill School Harvest Service with parents.

7.30 p.m. Harvest Sale in the Church Hall, Ansley Village.

Wednesday, October 16th

7.30 p.m. The Alpha Course.

Thursday, October 17th

7.45 p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting.

Sunday, October 20th

10.30 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Wednesday, October 23rd

7.30 p.m. The Alpha Course.

Sunday, October 27th

9.45 a.m. Family Service, St. John's, Ansley Common.

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

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

Wednesday, October 30th

7.30 p.m. The Alpha Course.

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.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism "We, the parents, promise by life, teaching and example to bring her up in the way of Christ."
September 15—Lauren Amy Smith of Ansley Common.

Burial of Ashes "Though I walk through the shadow of death."
September 18—Norah Randle, age 97 years, of Banbury.

Plant Sale. David Cove is kindly organising another plant sale beginning 10.00 a.m. Friday and Saturday, October 4th and 5th and will end both days at 4.00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. There will be a wide selection of both flowers and vegetable bedding plants. The income will be towards the Church Hall expenses.

Alpha Course. The Greek word means 'beginnings' because the course is all about Christian beginnings, and has been widely accepted in Churches all over the country. It begins in Ansley Village Church Hall on Wednesday, October 9th at 7.30 p.m. The Parish of Arley will be joining us and the Rector of Arley, The Rev. Geoff Kimber, will be leading us. All are welcome.

Prayer Day will be on All Saints Day November 1st when the Church will be open from **8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.** You will be welcome to join us any time of the day. Should you be able to add your name to the rota indicating the time you will be there, that will be helpful. The day will end with a time of Praise and Worship from 9.30 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.

Harvest Festival will be on Sunday, October 13th. Can you help us decorate the Church? Friday 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Saturday 10.00 a.m. God's goodness to us will provide us with the opportunity to give to others; and that will be our Theme as we look at ways we can help the third world through T.E.A.R. Fund projects.

The sale will be at 7.30 p.m. Monday, October 14th in the Village Church Hall. The sale will be under the direction of Stan Forryan.

This year's Flower Festival has resulted in a profit of £886.44 and a great deal of pleasure to an awful lot of people. The P.C.C. have agreed that £250 be sent to both Nuneaton Hospitals League of Friends and The Acorn Children's Hospice at Selly Oak, Birmingham. Thinking of the Vicar's words on the Monday evening I sat down and tried to count the number of people who in some way have provided for and helped with this event. Without much effort I was able to think of over 80 people, and I know there are more, also in addition there are those who gave to the produce stall and refreshments whom I have not counted. To each and everyone I say thank you.

Mrs. Sutton has asked me to say that there were no expenses for the refreshments as everything was so generously given, and also to mention the wonderful team effort and support that was given for her first year dealing with the catering. Thank you Marcia.

Whilst the end result is less financially on the previous few years—we cannot always break records—and I don't think the heavy showers did us a lot of favours. However the many pulled together in faith and with friendships renewed and team spirit the end result, I hope all will agree grew to another successful Flower Festival.
Thank you all.

Margaret Antill

Thank you John and Pauline Sparrow for the very pleasant and successful Coffee Morning last month. Many friends from far and near enjoyed sitting in the colourful garden eating good cakes and drinking tea and coffee. £60 was added to the Church funds.

The Barbecue in aid of the Church Army was very well supported. The weather was beautiful and the barbecued food was excellent. Thank you to the many who came, and the donations received all totalling £101.75.

Confirmation. Names for the classes are now to be received, please let me know if you would like to join.

GROWING

Each day is new, more seeds to sow,
We watch the fields and gardens grow.
Even in Winter there are hidden seeds,
In Spring they burst forth despite the weeds.

God's plan for this world was plain to see,
As he planted flowers and fruit and tree,
To each of us he entrusted his world,
As his tapestry of life was slowly unfurled.

His world still grows, his word still stands,
As messengers have spread throughout the lands,
But man is still blind to God's commands and will,
And this world is stagnant and sin reigns still.

God's plan still lives in Christian hearts,
Grow in the Lord, His will impart.
Take God's seed of faith and love,
Put your future and lives in God above.

Let us make God's world the Eden he planned
Remove evil and sin from His fair land,
A place where our children can grow in grace,
Where the image of God is mirrored in each face.

Marie Cove

At the Morning Harvest Service we shall make a presentation to Marie Cove for her many years of leadership of our Sunday School. Contributions towards this gift, please give to the Wardens or at the Vicarage.

Once upon a time a woodcutter called Tom decided to employ an apprentice. Tom had been cutting wood all his life and was proud of his speed and accuracy—indeed Tom was known as one of the best woodcutters in the land.

Sam started working for Tom on a fine sunny day. Every hour or so Sam disappeared for 5 minutes returning without any explanation. Tom thought this was odd but was not overly concerned because he had agreed to pay Sam on the amount of wood cut. To his surprise, at the end of the day, Sam had cut nearly twice as much wood as he had. Tom asked "How could you have cut so much wood when you have been taking so much time out?" "I have been sharpening my axe," Sam replied.

For God to give His people a cutting edge in today's society, four things need to be practiced. **Worship God. Listen to God. Speak to God. Speak for God.**