

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 797

NOVEMBER 1991

Price 13p



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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.

Birchley Heath Post Office 6.10 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,

November 1st, 1991

Our Dear Friends,

I find it so encouraging to hear news of what is happening in the Christian Church in various parts of the world, I hope you find it encouraging too. That is the reason why, in the September magazine, I was sharing the experience of a group of English people who recently visited Russia.

You will remember I mentioned that they were singing in a street in St. Petersburg and eventually were invited into a cinema. They were welcomed into a large foyer where again they sang. Many of the people were tapping their feet or clapping their hands all obviously with it in Spirit even if not in language. Through an interpreter the team spoke about God's love and then gave out a large quantity of Russian Bibles. There was tremendous enthusiasm from the crowd of about 300.

On another day they visited a Roman Catholic Church. The priest, a man called Fr. Josephus, welcomed them warmly. He had led his Church through many years of deprivation and ransacking. The team presented him with a number of Bibles and other gifts. They describe the occasion, "Dear Fr. Josephus was overcome with all the gifts and wiped a tear from his cheek unable to say anything to Ludmilla who had joined us inside as interpreter. Eventually he composed himself and was able to speak to us all. Through the interpreter he gave us many, many thanks and his pastoral blessing. Then we sang to him, and to a few who were in the Church for their own private devotions. All I can say is that the Holy Spirit blessed that singing like it was an angelic choir. Many were overcome by tears and emotion as the Spirit descended on us all. It was a beautiful experience. When we stopped Fr. Josephus said amid his own tears that his people never sang like that and asked us to continue—"Majesty"—"I love you Lord"—"Jesus name above all names"—and so on. Looking round there were many more in the Church who had been attracted in presumably by the sound of praise and worship. Then Fr. Josephus, in a clear and lovely voice, sang to us the Lord's Prayer in Latin and with yet another blessing and thanksgiving we departed.

"On another occasion Russian children were visiting an ornate Orthodox Cathedral. The most famous in St. Peterburgh. It is a museum for most of the year but used for Worship on special occasions. The children were on a school visit with their teachers. The school teachers requested Bibles from us to take back to their school in order to teach them Christianity."

As they left the Cathedral a group of Russian "buskers" played the British national anthem in honour of the visitors.

With our love and prayers,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Friday, November 1st

- 6.30 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.
- 7.30 p.m. Praise and Renewal at St. Michaels, New Arley.

Sunday, November 3rd

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer 1662.

Tuesday, November 5th

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Wednesday, November 6th

- 8.00 p.m. Meeting of the Ansley Ladies.

Friday, November 8th

- 6.15 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.
- 7.30 p.m. Deanery Service, Bedworth Parish Church.

Remembrance Sunday, November 10th

- 10.50 a.m. Remembrance Day Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Wednesday, November 13th

- 8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Thursday, November 14th

- 7.45 p.m. "Ley Group" Council in the Upper Room, Arley.

Friday, November 15th

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

Sunday, November 17th

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

Wednesday, November 20th

- 8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

Thursday, November 21st

- 7.30 p.m. Children's Society Coffee Evening.

Friday, November 22nd

- 6.15 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.
- 7.30 p.m. Renewal Service at St. James, Tile Hill and St. Mary's, Atherstone.

Sunday, November 24th

- 10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's.
- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer A.S.B.

Wednesday, November 27th

- 8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Friday, November 29th

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

On Friday, November 22nd we have a choice of Renewal Services to go to. St. James, Tile Hill is the well established service to which many have been going in recent years. The other is at St. Mary's, Atherstone which commenced this autumn and is intended to serve the local area. There will be spare seats in cars going to both these services. Do ask if you want a lift.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE EVENING

All are welcome to the annual box-opening and bring and buy, at our house, in aid of the Children's Society. Please come along and enjoy each others company over light refreshments. Any donations for the bring and buy gratefully accepted.

Thank you, Margaret Oliver.

Date: Thursday, November 21st at 7.30 p.m.

Place: 33 Nuthurst Crescent, Ansley.

ANSLEY LADIES

We meet on November 6th, this will be a sale of Bed Linen. November 20th will be a Slipper sale, please come along and get some of your Christmas gifts. These meetings in Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.

W. M. Ponder.

ANSLEY MOTHERS' UNION

We meet on Tuesday, November 5th at the Church Hall. Speaker will be the daughter of one of our members, Ivy Love. Hope all our members can be present. Thank you.

W. M. Ponder.

FROM THE PARISH DIARY

Funeral — "Lord abide with us."

October 16—Samuel Cyril Gibbs, 70 years, of Exhall, formerly of Ansley Village.

St. John's, Ansley Common commenced our **Harvest celebrations** this year with a lovely informal service under the leadership of Pat Matthews, Marie Cove and Judith Wilson and with the Explorers taking the major part. The Harvest Supper was enjoyed, not only by the children, but also by an encouraging number of parents and friends. The Parish Church was very tastefully decorated, and we are all very grateful to the many who helped in any way make the Church look so well presented for the occasion.

Remembrance Day will be observed in our parish with the morning service commencing at 10.50 a.m., enabling us to join the nation for the two minutes silence as we stand (weather permitting) at the War Memorial before returning to Church for the service.

Harvest Sale was a very enjoyable evening. Thank you Stan Forryan for an entertaining auction. The final total came to £134. Thank you for your support and for all the many helpers and the most acceptable refreshments.

On Friday, November 1st, which is of course today, we are invited to St. Michael's, New Arley at 7.30 p.m., to join them for The Praise and Renewal Service. Keith Winnett, the Churchwarden at Arley, is responsible for the evening and has invited a Music team to lead the Worship. This will be a very uplifting occasion.

Gift Day Boxes are now available, please pick one up from Church. They have a new label and the date set for Gift Day is June 14th, 1992.

On Sunday, 29th September Ansley United Reformed Church in the Village held its last services. It was founded as a Congregational Church in 1823 and united with the Presbyterians in 1972. It was a very thriving place of worship years ago and some of the village people can remember the big Sunday School and the many activities held there. Mrs. Molly Arnold has given the building considerable loving care over the years and, but for her loyalty, the closure would have taken place earlier. That it, together with so many places of Worship throughout our land, has had to close is perhaps a sad reflection on the fact that material success has eventually deceived the majority into imagining that spiritual values can be discarded.

On Friday, November 8th our Diocesan Bishop will be speaking to the Deanery at a special service at Bedworth Parish Church. As many of us as possible, are urged to attend in order to hear our Bishop address us on his vision for the Diocese and the Decade of Evangelism. Please ask for a lift. There will be spare seats available in a number of cars that will be going.

The Christmas Fayre is to take place on Saturday, December 14th at 3.00 p.m. This will be the occasion when useful items for Christmas will be on sale, such as holly and food specialities. Please offer your help and support to make this event enjoyable.

Margaret Antill continues to be responsible for covenant giving and we are indebted to her for this important work. About this item Margaret writes the following information:

Covenanted Giving. Did you know that if you pay income tax (on either earning or investments) the Church can claim back the tax for any money you give to it, provided you complete a covenant form, for example—a donation/collection of £1 per week would give an additional £17 per year;
or £5 per week an additional £86 per year to the Church.

This money is refunded by the Inland Revenue each year upon completion of a declaration by yourself and also the Church being satisfied that the principal sum has been received.

This financial year Ansley will have received over £900 from the Inland Revenue, and for just filling in a few forms, and with people not giving any more than they would have anyway. This amount of money would take a lot of fund raising.

If you feel able to complete a form, or have any queries please ask. We need to replace covenants that have ceased due to death, etc.

Remember you cannot have the money, but the Church can !

On an average Sunday, 10% of England's adult population choose to be in church rather than stay in bed, be in the garden or go visit a DIY store. One in seven of those go to church twice on Sunday. These are just a couple of the findings of the English Church census, which also reveals that 3.7 million adults in England are churchgoers and 14% of the under-15 child population (1.2 million) attend church services or Sunday school. It means that over eight times as many people go to church each week as go to Football League matches. But church congregations are ageing, with fewer young people in them.