

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 833

NOVEMBER 1994

Price 20p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

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The Vicarage, Ansley Village, Nuneaton CV10 9PS

Telephone: Chapel End 396403

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 November, 1994

Our Dear Friends,

The sirens at Auschwitz concentration camp sounded out loud and clear. It was July 31st, 1941. All the inmates knew that the alarm meant a prisoner had escaped. Terror struck the camp. It was common knowledge that there would be punishments to follow.

As a reprisal, ten fellow prisoners were to die. It was to be a long slow starvation, the prisoners were to be buried alive in a specially constructed concrete bunker.

Ten prisoners were selected from the thousands of men standing on the parade ground. The men waited, tortured by sun, hunger and fear, as the German Commandant and his Gestapo assistant walked between the ranks making their selection. The Commandant pointed to one man, Francis Gajowniczek, who cried out in despair, "My poor wife and children."

At that moment another prisoner stepped out of line and took off his cap. "What do you want?" asked the Commandant. "I am a Catholic priest; I want to die for that man, I am old, he is young; he has a wife and children, but I have no one."

"Accepted," retorted the Commandant, and moved on. That night Father Maximilian Kolbe together with nine other men went to the starvation bunker. Whilst they had strength, lying naked on the floor, the men prayed and sang hymns. After two weeks Maximilian and three other men were still alive. Now the bunker was required for others; so the four were given an injection and died instantly. Maximilian Kolbe was just 47 years old.

Forty years later Father Klobe's death was put in its proper perspective. Present in a crowd of 150,000 was Francis Gajowniczek, his wife and his children, and his children's children. The Pope, addressing them in St. Peter's Square, Rome, described Maximilian's death in the following words: 'This was victory won over all the systems of contempt and hate in man—a victory like that won by our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Jesus died, not just for one man, but for all mankind, for all ages in every place. He paid the ultimate price to remove our guilt. Jesus also rose again from the dead, defeating the 'last enemy.' A relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ enables us to begin a quality of life known as eternal life which He never promised would be easy but He did say it would be full. Our time on earth is relatively short, but eternity is vast.

On Sunday, November 13th we join together around the parish war memorial to remember those who died in the service of our nation. We plan to unite with those in London to observe silence at 11 o'clock. Amongst those we remember will be others who, like Maximilian Klobe, willingly stepped out into the place of their comrades to offer themselves, and in so doing paid the ultimate price.

May we observe Remembrance Day as a day of thankfulness to God.

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 1st

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

Wednesday, November 2nd

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship in the Vicarage.

Sunday, November 6th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

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

Wednesday, November 9th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies in the Village Church Hall.

Sunday, November 13th — Remembrance Sunday

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer with an act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, "We shall remember them."

Wednesday, November 16th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship at the Vicarage.

Thursday, November 17th

8.00 p.m. Children's Society Box Opening.

Sunday, November 20th

10.30 a.m. Family Service and Baptism.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

Monday, November 21st

8.00 p.m. Ley Group planning meeting at Fillongley Church.

Wednesday, November 23rd

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies meet in the Village Church Hall.

Sunday, November 27th

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

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

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

Wednesday, November 30th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship at the Vicarage.

Every Tuesday

7.30 p.m. Youth Club, Village Church Hall.

Every Thursday

10.30 a.m. Mums and Toddlers in the Village Church Hall.

6.30 p.m. Explorers in St. John's Hall, Ansley Common.

Every Friday

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Matrimony "They begin a new life in the community."

October 15—Jason Phillips of Ansley Common and Anne Elizabeth Holt, also of Ansley Common.

Funerals "Lead me Lord"

October 5—Frank Edward Shilton, aged 82 years of St. John's Road, Ansley Common.

October 19—William Henry Parker, aged 86 years of Croft Mead, Ansley Village.

Internment of Ashes

Sept. 29—George Bates, aged 81 years, of Tuttle Hill.

October 3—Amy Ellen Ford, aged 74 years, of Nuneaton.

The New Room by the Church. It was back in April 1975 when the P.C.C. last made a big appeal to the people of Ansley, that was for £10,000 to repair the pinnacles. At that time we got that money and by November 1977 we had the dedication of three new bells. It was a wonderful achievement, for which everyone pulled together.

Now we are faced with a similar task; the porta cabin has to go by next September and then the Sunday School could suffer. I think everyone must agree that our toilet facilities are in great need of upgrading. As I mentioned last month the new building is to be around the site of the existing toilet, it will NOT be attached to the Church, and the Church Halls in the parish will NOT be affected. There are many departments and organisations to have their say as to the exact design; i.e. three at Atherstone, the Diocese, English Heritage, etc., as well as the P.C.C.'s own ideas to be considered.

We the P.C.C. are now proceeding to raise the required £30,000 to £35,000 for such a project. We have however been given a wonderful start by a dedicated gift of £6,000, this has come from outside the parish and we say a big Thank You. The fund now stands at just over £7,000. Now it is up to us the people of Ansley to get out and raise the rest of the money if we want this project to go ahead, as the £6,000 would have to be returned if it were not to commence.

You may ask with so many needy appeals around why should we give to the building of a new room. Well, this only you can answer, but I wish to say that, a good many of the people who grew up in Ansley will have attended Sunday School either under the guidance of Mr. Arnold (senior) in the Church early on a Sunday morning, or with Marie Cove who has run the Sunday School for the last 20 years; starting out in the Old Vicarage, and after a few years in the Church Hall have moved into the Porta Cabin. We the P.C.C. can only say that, this room will provide a future for the Sunday School. As it is with the children that the future of the Church will or will not grow. The room will of course have many uses, as well as more respectable toilet facilities.

We have some ideas for extra events, the first of which is the Dine by Wheels (details of which are in this issue). We are also asking for ideas of other events, and of course your support for all those we arrange.

The P.C.C. also ask you to consider outright gifts to the Church for this project. Yes 30 gifts of £1,000 would be wonderful (but I feel somewhat unrealistic to expect), but 3,000 gifts of £10 would also have the same result. Even so gifts of just £1 will also add up. Please remember that on gifts of over £250 the Government's Gift Aid scheme making £300 into £400—£100 being the repayment of standard rate income tax of the sum by the Inland Revenue. Also Deposited Covenants for smaller sums, but please remember you must be paying income tax on either earnings, investments or savings, to take advantage of these schemes.

We are simply asking everyone to give what they think they can properly afford. However do not feel pressurised if you already give to the Church as much as you can afford, your support and encouragement are just as valuable.

If you have any queries please contact me on — 0827 874520 (evenings) or if you wish to make a donation please see any member of the P.C.C.

Margaret Antill

The Plant Sale last month realised a profit of £81 for the Church Hall funds, and some neat spring gardens for next year I imagine !

At the P.C.C. Coffee Evening in the Vicarage, gifts towards the new room amounted to £103. This is a most encouraging start. There was certainly some generous giving indicating warm support for the project. Thank you.

The Harvest Sale income was just over £126. Many thanks to all who gave and supported the sale. Special thanks to Stan Forryan, whose energetic salesmanship provided an entertaining evening.

Frank Shilton was born at Baxterley. He served in the Royal Marines with distinction during the last war and was mentioned in dispatches. After the war he worked at Baddesley Pit for 30 years before retirement. We extend our sympathy to Ethel, his wife, and Jean, his daughter, in their bereavement that God will sustain them.

William Parker. Bill was born at Stockingford. He worked at Arley Pit. Married Ellen Julia in 1931. He had a great love for gardening, music and canal holidays. Relatives, friends and neighbours attended the service. We remember John, his son, and Dorothy, his daughter-in-law in prayer.

Diaries for 1995 are available on the literature table in Church, price 50p. All 100% profit for Church funds. Contains all Ansley Church information. Ideal size for your pocket.

Dine by Wheels. In aid of the building fund for the new room on Friday, December 2nd we are having a dine by wheels. Which is instead of the meal coming to you, as in meals on wheels, you go to a different location for each course of a five course meal. All but the cooks will meet in the Church Hall at 7.00 p.m. prompt, where all guests will be served with fruit punch and given their dining group's itinerary. This will show four addresses to attend for their meal, i.e. 1st address for soup; 2nd address fish course; 3rd address main course; and 4th address dessert. Then returning to the Church Hall for coffee, mince pie and cheese and biscuits. The menu will be similar throughout and each cook will serve a full meal. We are asking for a few more cooks, names please to David Morley on 0676 540298. As numbers are critical for the organising of the event it will be by ticket only. The price is £10.00 each and these can be obtained from P.C.C. members. This should be great fun and where else could you go out for a five course meal for just £10.00.

Margaret Antill

Holly Wreaths. Once again we shall be making holly wreaths for sale at the Christmas Bazaar, which this year is on the 10th December, and to enable the correct number of wreaths to be ready please order these by contacting David Morley on 0676 540298 or Margaret Antill on 0827 874520 with your requirements. The price will be £5.00 for holly and £5.50 for holly with ribbon. Evergreen wreaths will also be made to order if required.

Margaret Antill.

Children's Society. The annual box-opening and bring and buy will be held on Thursday, November 17th at 8.00 p.m. Everyone is very welcome to come and join us for coffee and refreshments at 33 Nuthurst Crescent. Thank you for your continued support.

Margaret Oliver, Tel.: 395674