

ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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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,
December 1st, 1990

Our Dear Friends,

December is the favourite month of the year for most people. A time for family gatherings and nostalgic reminiscing. A full stocking hanging at the foot of the bed, that special toy we had so much longed for, the smell of roast chestnuts on the hearth, delicious mince pies—most people have childhood memories that recall that special word Christmas! Its holiday season holds a very special place in many hearts.

More important, Christmas provides an occasion for believers around the world to join in remembering the birth of Jesus—one of the most significant and miraculous events in all history.

The Birth of Jesus in a Bethlehem stable on that wonderful night some 2,000 years ago is as significant as His death and victory over the grave in its importance to us. Had the Eternal Son not been willing to leave heaven; had Jesus not come into this world as a baby; there would have been no cross, no empty tomb, and no salvation.

At His birth people grouped themselves into at least three categories in which people are always to be found with regard to Jesus. There was the reaction of Herod, that of hatred and hostility. Herod was afraid that this little child would challenge his life-style and interfere with his life, therefore his instinct was to destroy Him. Today there are those who wish to live as they like, Jesus Christ annoys them and they too would gladly destroy Him.

Another group was the Jewish leaders; they were so engrossed with their way of life that they simply disregarded Jesus. He meant nothing to them. Indifference is common amongst most people today. They ignore Him and keep their distance from believers.

The Wise Men's reaction to Jesus' coming was of adoring worship and costly sacrifice. When people realise the love of God demonstrated in Christ they too will be lost in wonder, love and praise.

As that very special season of the year approaches, therefore, let us not allow its busyness to keep us from focusing on what Christmas is really all about. Rather may we with sincere gratitude thank the Lord that He visited our planet and took the attitude of a servant and came as one of us. He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

It is our prayer that this Christmas season will be a time of great joy for you as you remember the coming of the Saviour.

A very happy Christmas,
James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR DECEMBER 1990

Saturday, December 1st

3.00 p.m. U.R.C. Christmas Sale in Ansley Village Church Hall.

Sunday, December 2nd — ADVENT SUNDAY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer. Theme: "A Certain Return."

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. (1662 Prayer Book). Theme: "Advent."

Tuesday, December 4th

2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Christmas Party in Ansley Village Church Hall.

Wednesday, December 5th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship at 1 Park Cottages.

Friday, December 7th

2.00 p.m. Little Fishes Christmas Party, Ansley Village Church Hall.

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

8.00 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. Supper Dance. Tickets £2.00.

Saturday, December 8th

11.00 a.m. Welcome Service at the Cathedral for New Bishop of Warwick The Rt. Rev. Clive Handford.

3.00 p.m. Christmas Bazaar.

Sunday, December 9th — ADVENT 2

11.00 a.m. Family Communion. Theme: "Our Bible."

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. Theme: "God Speaks."

Monday, December 10th

6.30 p.m. Children's Club Christmas Event, Ansley Village Church Hall.

Wednesday, December 12th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies' Association Christmas Party.

Thursday, December 13th

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

Friday, December 14th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, December 16th — ADVENT 3

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

Wednesday, December 19th

6.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Carol Singing at Birchley Heath. Meet at the Post Office.

Thursday, December 20th

6.30 p.m. Explorers Christmas Event, St. John's, Ansley Common.

Friday, December 21st

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, December 23rd — ADVENT 4.

11.00 a.m. Family Communion with Children's items.
6.30 p.m. Carol Service, Mr. Ian Knox.

Monday, December 24th

10.00 p.m. Holy Communion at St. John's, Ansley Common.
11.30 p.m. Holy Communion at The Parish Church.

Christmas Day

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

Sunday, December 30th

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service. Theme: "The Holy Child."

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism — "To encourage her by Prayer, Worship and Example"
Nov. 18—Emma Louise Warden of Ansley Village.

Holy Matrimony — "The two shall become one"

Oct. 27—Adrian Ashley Stanton of West Bromwich to Debbie Moreton of Ansley Village.

Anthony John Allton to Joy Harlock both of Birchley Heath.

Funeral — "I am the Resurrection and the Life" says the Lord.

Nov. 19—Cuthbert Robinson, aged 74, of Bedworth, formerly of Ansley Village.

St. John's, Ansley Common special Explorer Christmas Event is on Thursday, December 20th at 6.30 p.m. Dad's and Mum's and friends and strangers will enjoy this evening's varied programme in which all the children will take part, re-telling the Christmas Story and enjoying some tasty eats.

The Supper Dance on Friday, December 7th at 8.00 p.m. is being organised by David Cove from whom tickets can be bought for £2 including supper. Mr. and Mrs. A. Onions is kindly providing the music. The event is in aid of the Church Hall funds.

The Parochial Church Council has decided to experiment for a period of six months in using the Alternative Service Book at Morning Prayer on the first Sunday of each month at 11.00 a.m. and at Evening Prayer on the fourth Sunday of each month at 6.30 p.m. to commence in January.

At the Carol Service on Sunday, December 23rd the Christmas message will be given to us by Ian Knox. He qualified as a solicitor and worked as a lawyer until his appointment with Coventry City Council as Senior Solicitor. He is a member of St. John's, Westwood, is a regular contributor to Scripture Union Notes and speaks at meetings in this country and abroad. There will be an opportunity to have a word with him after the service over coffee and mince pies in the Porta Cabin.

Strangeways. Martin was transferred to the Police Cells at Leamington Spa after the riots at Strangeways. As the Police were not sure about him, he was kept locked up. The cell was very dirty with spit and graffiti. So Martin asked for water and a scrubbing brush and got to work. After cleaning up he asked for paint and a brush and really improved the appearance of the cell. When asked why he was doing this, he told the Police how Jesus had changed his life while in Strangeways. A Policeman rang the Chaplain at Strangeways to say that Martin had really made him begin searching for a genuine faith. He never thought a prisoner would make him think seriously about his life.

Please Note that Friday, January 4th, 1991 will be the Parish Christmas Party—Mark it in your New Diary.

The Sycamore Tree is the name of the new Christian Bookshop recently opened at 2 Chapel Street, Nuneaton replacing the Christian Supply Shop which was in Queens Road. Chapel Street is just off Coventry Street by Lloyds Bank. The bookshop is open Monday to Saturday 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Coffee is also available.

ANSLEY MOTHERS' UNION

We met on Tuesday, November 6th and a very pleasant afternoon was had. Our speaker, Mr. George Tomlin talked on his life after leaving the Children's Home and we were all left with many points to think about thanks to George.

Our next meeting will be on December 4th at 2.30 p.m. in the Church Hall. It will be the Christmas Party, when we will be entertaining Stroke club members and also Mrs. Harris and her singers will be leading us in carols. W. M. Ponder.

On Monday, December 10th there will be another Children's Club in the Village Church Hall. This will have a definite Christmas flavour about it. Diane Kealey will be leading us. Adults are welcome.

Please support with a variety of saleable items the

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**Saturday, December 8th at 3.00 p.m.
in Ansley Village Church Hall**

Cakes — Farm Produce — Novelties — Refreshments

Father Christmas will be present.

ADMISSION 10p
