

# ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 774

DECEMBER 1989

Price 13p



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**Honorary Church Army Evangelist:**

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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.

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel.: 382902

Ansley Vicarage,  
1st December, 1989

Our Dear Friends,

A group of men who were gold prospectors worked hard and long at a particular isolated spot. The day of their dreams arrived when they discovered an exceptionally rich mine.

One of them said, "Hey, we've got it made as long as we don't tell anybody else before we stake our claims." So they each vowed to keep the secret.

Then they realised that their equipment was hopelessly inadequate for extracting the gold, and that their food supplies were low. So they were compelled to leave the mine and go to the nearest town where they were able to purchase ample provisions and the necessary machinery.

They then hurried back to the site of the mine. As they prepared to recommence their work they saw crowds of people arriving. Their secret was out!

When the men enquired from the crowd how they knew about the gold the people said, "No one told us that gold had been found, but we all knew because your discovery was written all over your faces."

That was also true of another group of men who were weather beaten, hard, rough, tough, experienced Shepherds out on the hills of Bethlehem on the night that Jesus was born.

Those Shepherds were privileged to make a discovery far more important than gold; and they made no vow to keep silent. The words they spoke was confirmed by the excitement on their faces. It is no surprise that the record tells us that the people who met them were amazed.

Their deep seated hunger for God was met and it could not be hidden.

One Christmas Day, a little boy stood in front of a picture of his absent father, and said wistfully, "I wish father would step out of the picture." The little boy expressed the deepest yearning of the human heart. We want our God to step out of the picture and meet us. He has! That is the meaning of Christmas, Jesus is Immanuel—God with us.

There was once a European monarch who worried his officials by often disappearing and walking in disguise amongst his people. When he was asked not to do so for security's sake, he answered, "I cannot rule my people unless I know how they live."

It is a great fact of the Christian faith that we have a God who knows this life we live because He lived it too. It is also a fact that He meets the believer and meeting us brings a joy that is reflected on our faces and in our lives.

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



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

### Friday, December 1st

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in the Porta Cabin.

### Sunday, December 3rd — Advent Sunday

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer, "Advent"

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (traditional 1662 Prayer Book).

### Monday, December 4th

7.30 p.m. Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

### Tuesday, December 5th

Mothers' Union Christmas Party.

### Wednesday, December 6th

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

### Friday, December 8th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in the Porta Cabin.

### Saturday, December 9th

3.00 p.m. Christmas Bazaar.

### Sunday, December 10th — Advent 2

11.00 a.m. Family Communion, "What is the Bible?"

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, "The Structure of the Bible."

### Wednesday, December 13th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies' Christmas Party.

### Friday, December 15th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in the Porta Cabin.

### Sunday, December 17th — Advent 3.

11.00 a.m. Family Service and Nativity Play.

"The Meaning of Christmas."

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion, "The Coming King."

### Tuesday, December 19th

6.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Carol Singing around Ansley Village.

### Thursday, December 21st

6.30 p.m. Carol Service and "Christmas Scenes" by the Children  
at St. John's, Ansley Common followed by Coffee and  
Mince Pies.

### Friday, December 22nd

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in the Porta Cabin.

### Sunday, December 24th — Advent 4

11.00 a.m. Christmas Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Traditional Carol Service.

10.00 p.m. St. John's, Ansley Common, Christmas Eve Communion.

11.30 p.m. Parish Church Christmas Eve Communion.

### Christmas Day

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

### Sunday, December 31st

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. "Behold I make all things new."

**The Parochial Church Council** has chosen Friday, January 5th at 7.00 p.m., for the Parish Christmas Party in Ansley Village Church Hall. This is a Church family occasion and we trust that each member of the Church will plan to be present. Children to be accompanied by their parents please.

**Flowers for the Church.** If you would like to place flowers in Church as an act of worship to the Lord, or to celebrate a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one, will you please put your name on the list in the Church porch next to the date you select. The vases in Church are brass; would you please be kind enough to give these vases a polish at the time you bring the flowers. Thank you.

**The Craft Evening and Fashion Show** last month was an enjoyable occasion. The exhibits and demonstrations revealed a wide variety of talents amongst many parishioners. The event provided a surplus of £120 for the Church Hall accounts. Very many thanks to Marcia Sutton for organising the evening.

**Instead of Wreaths** many people gave donations to the Church funds as a mark of respect and in memory of Mr. Tom Jones. These gifts have amounted to £250. This generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Hackney's Furniture Sale.** Thank you to Edna Toon who kindly arranged a "Church corner" at the sale for friends to bring any unwanted item. A variety of articles were given and £45 was raised. We are very grateful.

**Unique stone ware mugs** have been designed for our Church. In addition to the words 'Founded in 1200 AD' and 'Building for the future'; there are two scenes, one is of the ancient Norman door on the north side of the Church by the cremation garden; and the other scene is the east side of the Church and tower taken from the path. The mugs come in four colours Brown, Red, Blue and Green. They are on sale at Birchley Heath Post Office, Rowley's Newsagents, Ansley Common, Sue's Pantry, Ansley Village, Patricia Dianne's Hairdressers, Old Arley and Jill Morley's Hairdressers, Gay Hill Farm. We are grateful to them for displaying the mugs for us. They will also be on sale at the Christmas Bazaar. Diana Kealey is in charge of sales. They sell at £2.50 each and her telephone number is 395089.

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#### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

"Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
Thou art with me," Psalm 23.

Nov. 10—Frank Wood, aged 85 years of Nuneaton, formerly of Birchley Heath.

The U.R.C. Village Chapel is holding their Christmas Sale on Saturday, December 2nd in our Village Church Hall. Please help to support them. They have had the unpleasant experience of having their hall windows smashed by vandals. This destruction adds a heavy burden to their repair bills.



Please support with a variety of saleable items the

## ***Christmas Bazaar***

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th at 3.00 p.m.**

**IN ANSLEY VILLAGE CHURCH HALL**

**Cakes — Farm Produce — Novelties — Refreshments**

**Father Christmas will be present**

**ADMISSION 10p**



The Parochial Church Council has accepted an estimate of £4842 from Wragg Brothers Ltd., Masonry Contractors, for repairs to the tower and walls and six clerestory windows. This necessary work comes just 12 months after the repairs to the roof timbers was carried out together with some electrical rewiring totalling some £8,500. Needless to say, your help with gifts, large or small, will be greatly appreciated as we face this added expenditure.

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### **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

The annual 'box-opening' coffee evening for the Children's Society will be on Thursday, December 7th at 7.30 p.m. If you are unable to come please leave your boxes at Church and I shall collect them. Please come for coffee and a chat even if you do not have a box. There will be a small bring and buy stall if you would like to support it.

**MARGARET OLIVER**

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