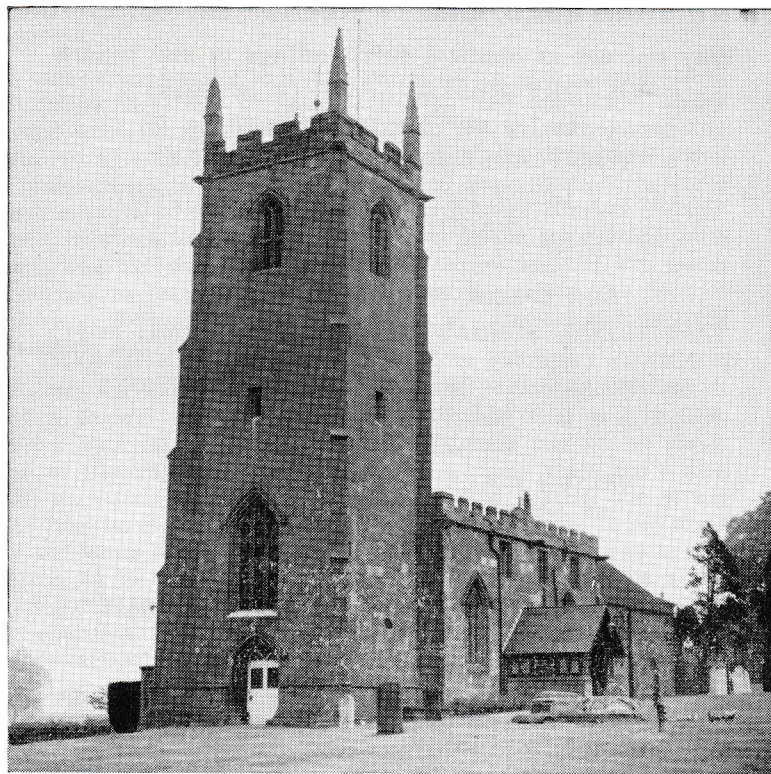


ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

No. 798

DECEMBER 1991

Price 13p



Vicar:

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

Mrs. CATHERINE A. JASPER

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.

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.: (0203) 382902

Ansley Vicarage,

1st December, 1991

Our Dear Friends,

In our schools, colleges, theatres, concert halls, clubs, homes, churches and wherever people congregate Jesus' birth will in some way be celebrated throughout our country on more than one occasion this month.

No other human being in history has attracted such a combination of attention, devotion, criticism, adoration and opposition. Every recorded word He spoke has been studied and sifted, analysed and scrutinized by generations of ordinary people as well as theologians and philosophers. Everyone of His actions has attracted the same intense interest. 20 centuries after His birth there is never a single moment in which less than several million people are reading what He said and did, and trying to apply the significance of His words and actions to their lives today. That person, Jesus, was born at Bethlehem—is sometimes known as Jesus of Nazareth, and He lived in Palestine 2000 years ago.

The message to the Shepherds was "Today is born in the City of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord." So that is His title, Saviour! That title gives us a clue to His main mission on earth. It can be illustrated by the following story. Many years ago a man by the name of Faucett owned land in Ireland. During one of the potato famines some families on his estate were unable to pay their rents and wrote begging him to let them off their obligations to pay. In his reply he said that it would be wrong, and would be a bad precedent; he could not possibly make any exceptions to that ruling. They must pay their bills to the last penny. However, he enclosed with the letter a slip of paper. It was a cheque for more than sufficient to cover all that they owed.

That is just a tiny picture of what God did in Jesus upon the cross. It comes as no surprise therefore that He is called, 'Saviour.' He saves the believer from their guilt of sin in order that they may be forgiven their debt, and God's justice satisfied.

A young boy once sat down with pencil and paper. He wrote down all the sins that were on his conscience: a long and miserable list. Then he took a match and set light to the paper. As he watched the flames burn up the paper he said to himself, 'Jesus died for my sins.' And as the breeze blew the ashes into the air he added, 'And He carried my sins right away.' That is the assurance that every Christian can and should have.

This month gives all of us the opportunity to worship the Lord, that is the best way to celebrate His birth.

Have a happy Christmas,

Our love to you,

James, Catherine, Mark, Rebekah.

DIARY FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1st — ADVENT

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer, Preacher: Peter & Lyndy Valentine.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer, Preacher: Peter & Lyndy Valentine.
- 1662 Service Book.

Wednesday, December 4th

- 8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies' Meeting.

Friday, December 6th

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

Sunday, December 8th — Advent 2

- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion—Text Psalm 119 v 105.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer—Text II Timothy 3 v 16.

Wednesday, December 11th

- 8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Thursday, December 12th

- 7.30 p.m. Wreath Making Demonstration.

Friday, December 13th

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

Saturday, December 14th

- 3.00 p.m. Christmas Fayre.

Sunday, December 15th — Advent 3

- 11.00 a.m. Family Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Parish Communion, 'The Second Advent.'

Tuesday, December 17th

- 7.00 p.m. Carol Singing, Birchley Heath, Meet at the Post Office.

Wednesday, December 18th

- 8.00 a.m. Ansley Ladies' Meeting.

Thursday, December 19th

- 6.30 p.m. Meet at St. John's, Ansley Common for Carol Singing around the houses.

Friday, December 20th

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

Sunday, December 22nd — Advent 4

- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion — "Surprise."
- 3.00 p.m. St. John's Christingle Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Carol Service — "The Event that Changed the World."

Christmas Eve — Tuesday, December 24th

- 10.00 p.m. Christmas Communion at St. John's.
- 11.30 p.m. Christmas Communion at the Parish Church.

Christmas Day

- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion — "Gifts."

Sunday, December 29th

- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Service, Alternative Service Book.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism — "The Lord knows those who are His."
Nov. 17—Roxsan Melanie Orme, of Ansley Village.

Funeral — "The Lord is my Shepherd"
Nov. 13—William Thomas Worrall, 86 years, of Park Cottages.

South American Missionary Society candidates Mr. & Mrs. Peter & Lyndy Valentine will be speaking at both services on Sunday, December 1st, 11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., prior to commencing their missionary work early in the new year. They will be bringing their son Luke with them.

St. Laurence and St. John's Mothers' Union meet on Tuesday, December 3rd. It will be our Christmas Party and will be held at the home of Mrs. Varden, Ansley Common. All our Mothers' Union members are invited. Transport will be provided. The time will be 2.30 p.m., and we will be having a Bring and Buy. Winnie Ponder.

Christingle Service will be held at St. John's at 3.00 p.m., on Sunday, December 22nd. Everyone is welcome to this parish event, the proceeds of which will go to the work of the Children's Society. Margaret Oliver writes an explanation of the service—"Christingle means 'Christ-light' and is symbolised by an orange representing the world. **Fruit and nuts** represent the food we eat, **Red ribbon** reminds us of the Blood of Christ, and a lighted Candle points to Jesus, the Light of the World. At this service each child will be presented with a 'Christingle' to take home." For details do please contact Judith Wilson on 396085 or Margaret Oliver on 395674.

Carol Singing will take place this month. Do please join us at Ansley Common. Starting from St. John's at 6.30 p.m., on Thursday, December 19th, we will return to the hall at 8.00 p.m. If we have a good number of us it will help to make the occasion a very happy one and give plenty of volume to the singing.

The Christmas Fayre will be held in the Church Hall, Ansley Village on Saturday, December 14th at 3.00 p.m. There will be a selection of stalls, these will include, **sweet stall, mince pies, games, craft stall, refreshments, Christmas Confectionery.** Marie Cove has written a **competition**, please obtain a form from Marie before the Fayre. There will also be a selection of **Christmas Wreaths** ranging in price from £2 to £5. There will be a **White Elephant Stall and Father Christmas.** Entrance 10p. Do offer to help, plenty is needed in a variety of ways and an enjoyable afternoon should take place.

Wreath Making Demonstration prior to the Fayre, will take place in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m., on Thursday, December 12th. See how it is done and place your order.

I was in Nuneaton on the day Terry Waite returned home to Britain and overheard people talking in excitement about his arrival. Television sets were on in the shops screening the actual event. We were all thankful to God that he had survived and that he was able to convey such good health in mind, body and soul as he spoke to the nation from that aircraft hangar where the newspaper reporters had gathered.

We have since learned of some of the ordeals through which he lived. Being chained to the wall of his cell. Total isolation for four years. Receiving one card only. He will have gained considerable inner strength from the Scriptures he was allowed to have and the parts of the Book of Common Prayer he had memorised at the age of 14 years. More will be revealed to us when Terry feels able to tell us.

Those who take the Bible Reading Fellowship notes as a basis for their daily readings will have been particularly delighted to read the passage selected for the day Terry was released. It was from Acts 16 v 22-26. Like Terry, Paul and Silas were unjustly imprisoned, chained, suddenly released and to whom the authorities apologised. We trust that Terry's jailers will have been impressed with his integrity and thereby interested in his faith to the extent that they will have the experience of the chief jailer who was responsible for Paul and Silas.

This Christmas season will be very precious to the Waite family as they are able to share together for the first time in five years. Let us continue to remember them in prayer.

The Parish Christmas Party will be at 7.00 p.m., on Saturday, January 4th. This year it is the turn of the Church Hall, Ansley Village. Do book this date and plan to join us. A food contribution list will be going around the parish so do please add your name to that and also if you are gifted with game ideas, come forward with your suggestions.

In addition to the Christingle service there will also be the traditional Carols and lessons on Sunday, 22nd at 6.30 p.m., and an informal Family Communion Service at 11.00 a.m., which will include the children's activities always associated with Christmas.

On Christmas Eve there will be the two Christmas Communion Services and the special Christmas Day Service to which all the families are welcome and in which the children show us their toys.

Approximately £55 remained in hand after expenses were paid following the Barbecue at Birchley Heath in September. This amount was put into the Church funds. The expenses were for such items as insurance on the marquee, contribution to the 'music group,' the hire of some equipment, etc. All the food was given, so were very many other things and this enabled the price of the tickets to be low and to conclude the evening with cash in hand. The Church was grateful for this addition to the funds as it was not a money making event.

Delia Smith of television fame has written a book called "A Feast for Advent." In it are Bible readings and prayers for every day in Advent. The idea is that it will help us to focus on the season of Advent and our Lord's coming and putting us in the right frame of mind for Christmas Day. It is published by the Bible Reading Fellowship and if you would like a copy Catherine will be able to get one for you.