

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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**Vicar:**

Reverend JAMES R. JASPER

**Honorary Church Army Evangelist:**

Mrs. CATHERINE A. JASPER

The Vicarage, Ansley Village, Nuneaton CV10 9PS

Telephone: Chapel End 396403

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**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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December 1st, 1993

Our Dear Friends,

Two children were busy decorating a Christmas tree that their father had put up in the living room. As the little boy hung a star on one of the branches, he said to his older sister, "I wish I had been born on Christmas Day." "Why?" she asked, "Because Jesus was born on that day," he replied. But his sister wanted to explain to him, so she said, "No, He wasn't, when Jesus was born, it was just like any other day. He made it Christmas!"

Of course she's right, Jesus wasn't born on a special day that was already filled with deep religious significance. His birth gave the day its true meaning. Let all of us in the parish acknowledge that, by worshipping Jesus at one of our special services this Christmas. It is His day.

Giving presents can also remind us that Jesus is God's indescribable gift to mankind.

A young man who was engaged to marry a lovely girl bought her a diamond ring and placed it on her finger. It was not a very large stone, but it had a brilliant sparkle. One day a jealous, cynical friend looked at it and said, "That's not a genuine diamond—it's merely an imitation." At first the young woman was very distressed. Had her fiancé given her a cheap ring? So she asked her father to take it to a jeweller to ascertain its quality. After careful examination the expert said it was a "pure white diamond of the highest quality." The woman's confidence in her lover was restored. He would never give her anything that was not genuine.

There is nothing phoney about Jesus. He is God's priceless treasure. He is totally genuine. Take a minute now to turn in your Bible to Matthew's gospel chapter one and read verses 18 to 25. Recorded here are some tremendous statements that present Him as greater than our minds can comprehend. Verses 18 and 20 state that Mary's Child was conceived, not by a human father but by the Holy Spirit. Verse 21 shows that the Babe was named 'Jesus' because He would save believers from their sins. And verse 22 with 23 declare that His birth was carrying out the promises God gave hundreds of years before; that is to say, previous to Jesus' coming from heaven to live on this planet.

God gave us salvation, gave us His love—  
Sent down His Son from heaven above  
God gave us Jesus—what more could He give?  
He sent a Redeemer that sinners might live.

A very happy Christmas to you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.



## DIARY FOR DECEMBER

### Wednesday, December 1st

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

### Friday, December 3rd

7.15 p.m. "The Spirit of Christmas."  
(Limited number of tickets £1.50).

### Sunday, December 5th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.  
10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer, A.S.B.  
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. 1662 B.C.P.

### Tuesday, December 7th

2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Christmas Party.

### Wednesday, December 8th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies.

### Saturday, December 11th

3.00 p.m. Christmas Fayre.

### Sunday, December 12th

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.  
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

### Thursday, December 16th

6.30 p.m. Carol Singing around Ansley Common.

### Sunday, December 19th

10.30 a.m. Christmas Family Service.  
3.30 p.m. Church Family Christmas Tea.  
6.30 p.m. Carol Service. Preacher: Captain Roger Murphy.

### Thursday, December 23rd

6.30 p.m. Christingle Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.

### Friday, December 24th — Christmas Eve

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

### Saturday, December 25th — Christmas Day

10.30 a.m. Christmas Family Communion.

### Sunday, December 26th — St. Stephen's Day

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.  
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Meetings for Prayer in Church every Friday at 6.45 p.m.

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The Free-Will Offering envelopes are now ready. Margaret Antill has put them on the literature table in Church together with the list. Please as you collect yours tick your name in that list. There are spare packets of envelopes for those who would like to commence this method of regular giving.



**The Mothers' Union** Christmas Party meets at the home of Mrs. Olive Varden, "Homelands," Nursery Hill, Ansley Common on Tuesday, December 7th at 2.30 p.m. The members are asked to contribute to the refreshments, And we look forward to this annual happy occasion.

W. Ponder.

**Ansley Ladies** meet on Wednesday, December 8th at the usual time of 8.00 p.m. This will be the last meeting before the New Year.

W. Ponder.

**Nursery Hill First School** have arranged their **Christmas Concert** for Tuesday, December 7th. On that day there will be two performances, 9.30 a.m. and again at 2.00 p.m. Friends are also welcome to the Dress Rehearsal on Monday, December 6th, at 2.00 p.m.

The School is also making an appeal.

**'PLEASE SUPPORT US'**—please support the proposal for Nursery Hill School to become a Primary (4-11) School. Please come to the meeting on Tuesday, November 30th at 7.15 p.m., in our School Hall. Children are also welcome at the same time when they will be entertained by having a video showing.

**Commencing at St. John's, Ansley Common** at 6.30 p.m., on Thursday, December 16th we shall be Carol Singing around the homes. Meeting back at St. John's for coffee and mince pies at 8.00 p.m. Do come to join us, especially if you have a singing voice. Money given to us will be sent to the Church Army, towards its social and evangelistic work.

**The Church Family Christmas Tea** will be in Ansley Village Church Hall at 3.30 p.m., on Sunday, December 19th following the morning Christmas Family Service and before the 6.30 p.m., Carol Service. The tea will be an opportunity for us to have an informal time together and also to meet Roger Murphy who will be the preacher at the evening Carol Service. Roger is a Church Army Officer and is employed by the Church Pastoral Aid Society and is one of their national evangelists. We are privileged to have him with us.

**Please support** the Christmas Fayre commencing at 3.00 p.m., on Saturday, December 11th in the Church Hall, Ansley Village. There will be the usual stalls offering a wide variety of items including cakes and home-made sweets, etc. Place your orders for Christmas wreaths in advance if possible by ringing 0676 40298 and 0827 874520 to collect them at the Fayre. They are priced from £4 to £6.

**Can you help** to decorate the Church for Christmas? Those who can spare an hour will find others in Church on Saturday morning December 18th from 10.00 a.m. onwards. Holly, etc., will be available on site.

**Improvements to the Security** of the Church have become essential since the day time break-in one day last month. We were glad that nothing was taken. Damage was limited to two windows.



**The Christingle Service** will be at St. John's, Ansley Common this year at 6.30 p.m., on Thursday, December 23rd. This visual aid service is always popular with adults as with Children. The collection from this service will go to the Church of England's Children's Society. There will be coffee and mince pies at the end of the evening.

**We have information of the "March for Jesus"** next year, 25th June, 1994. It is planned to be Global for the first time. The idea is that on that day Millions of Christians all over the world will march and pray in their capital city. In Britain it will be at Edinburgh, Cardiff, London and Northern Ireland. Millions of Christians marching for Jesus world-wide. From Australasia to Asia, to Europe and Africa and around the globe to the Americas and the Pacific—a wave of praise and prayer on the streets that will circle the earth. The leaflet says that it is a day to change the world. With a quotation from Malachi chapter one and verse 11, "From the rising of the sun to its setting My Name shall be great among the nations."

**Gift Day Boxes** will be available in Church this month. The P.C.C. have chosen August 7th, 1994 as the Gift Day; when the boxes should be returned at one of the services on that day. Do please take your box from the Literature Table.

**St. Nicolas Church, Nuneaton** is again staging the 'Bible Comes to Life' exhibition in June 1994. The Churches in the Nuneaton Deanery and beyond are invited to join in. In addition to the fascinating exhibition stalls showing valuable Biblical items there will be costume talks explaining Jewish Culture and traditions. In 1986 when St. Nicolas Church last held this exhibition there was considerable interest not only amongst the general public but also from local schools and colleges. The organising body carrying this exhibition nationwide is the Church Mission to Jews.

**Heavily armed bandits** robbed "Youth with a Mission" workers, whose headquarters is on the A5 at Nuneaton, of vital transport in two separate incidents in a remote part of Niger's northern Sahel region, where the group is working on a well-sinking project among the Tuareg people. An expectant mother and toddler were held at gunpoint in one of the incidents. Despite this "Youth with a Mission" is carrying on with the project, which it hopes, will build a bridge for the Gospel; following a plea from this African country's President, Mahmane Oussman to do so. The Tuaregs are more receptive than before the seizure of the two vehicles.