

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 834

DECEMBER 1994

Price 20p



Vicar:

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Honorary Church Army Evangelist:

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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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1st December, 1994

Our Dear Friends,

"Well! where is the 'Peace on earth' that those angels promised to the Shepherds" asked a critic recently. The answer is found in the following incidents.

About fifteen years ago Paul Negrut, a Romanian pastor, was severely persecuted when Ceausescu was the Romanian President. Now Paul is one of the prominent leaders of the Church in Romania. Previously he had spent six months being interrogated all day, and every day. In addition to that, attempts were made to electrocute his family by connecting the water pipes in his house to the electrical system.

After that evil regime was brought to an end, Paul heard one day, that the man who had tortured and persecuted him for six months was in hospital dying of cancer. So off Pastor Negrut went to visit him. The man's mother was at her son's bedside crying and asked Paul to pray for her son's healing. Paul Negrut laid hands on his persecutor's head and prayed for him. After some weeks he slowly and miraculously recovered. Since then they have actually knelt and prayed together.

That is an illustration of the 'Peace on earth' of which the angel spoke when the birth of Jesus was announced to the Shepherds.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was born only a few miles away from where Terry Waite was chained to a wall for over three years. In answer to Terry's question, the guard, in broken English, told him the date, 'Twenty four December.'

With a small piece of bread, and a drop of water in a plastic cup, that Terry had saved from a previous meal, he remembered the Lord's death in a simple Holy Communion service he conducted alone in his cell, whilst focusing on a cross he had made out of a paper tissue. In his heart was no bitterness, no regrets and no self pity.

Outside in the street it was very quiet, as on that night of the angel's visit to the Shepherds, reflecting the inner calm and peace that service had brought to him.

One Sunday morning recently, a man with a burden of guilt, attended a church service. With tears streaming down his face he committed his life to the Lord. He then asked the minister to pray for his wife who lay at home in bed unable to move. At the beginning of that evening service the man's wife, who was prayed for in the morning, stood to her feet to testify how the power of the Holy Spirit had come upon her that very morning as she lay in bed. She got out of bed completely healed. The evening service was immediately charged with God's mighty power and lasted almost five hours. Yet another illustration of God's Peace coming to earth.

Many hearts and homes, communities and countries are today filled with fear, bitterness, anger, frustration, and chaos. Very few are filled with peace. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. Welcome Him to your scene.

Happy Christmas,

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

DIARY FOR DECEMBER 1994

Friday, December 2nd

7.00 p.m. Dine by Wheels. Five Course Meal £10.00.

Sunday, December 4th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer A.S.B. 1980.

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

Tuesday, December 6th

2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union Christmas Party.

Wednesday, December 7th

7.30 p.m. Punch & Pudding.

Saturday, December 10th

3.00 p.m. Christmas Bazaar.

7.45 p.m. Christmas Mystery Play.

Sunday, December 11th

10.30 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Monday, December 12th

7.00 p.m. Children's Club in Village Church Hall.

Wednesday, December 14th

8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship in the Vicarage.

Sunday, December 18th

10.30 a.m. Family Christmas Service.

6.30 p.m. Carol Service.

Wednesday, December 21st

7.00 p.m. Christingle Service in the Church Hall.

Thursday, December 22nd

6.30 p.m. Christmas Family Service in St. John's Hall, Ansley Common.

Saturday, December 24th — Christmas Eve

10.00 p.m. Holy Communion at St. John's, Ansley Common.

11.30 p.m. Holy Communion at the Parish Church.

Christmas Day

10.30 a.m. Family Communion in which the children take part.

Every Tuesday

6.00 p.m. Youth Club in the Village Church Hall.

Every Thursday

10.30 a.m. Mums & 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

Baptism 'Children helped and encouraged by their parents and god-parents prayers, example, and teaching.

Nov. 14—Kirsten Louise Pugh, of Ansley Village.

Funerals 'The time is coming when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God' John 5, 25.

Nov. 9—Steven John Smith, aged 15 years of West View, Ansley Common.

Nov. 21—Reginald James Fessi, 74 years, of St. Laurence Road Ansley Village.

The Funeral of Steven John Smith was a very moving occasion. The Headteacher of Hartshill High School, Mr. Hecks, spoke of him at the service as a good student who got on with his work quietly and reliably. He had an attractive personality, gathering around him lots of friends; a happy disposition and a winsome smile. He will be remembered for his liveliness and friendliness. John Letts, a local sculptor, has kindly agreed to donate a trophy to the School and this will become known as the Steven Smith Memorial Trophy. A lot of his school friends were present at the service and also many from his previous school at Polesworth.

We pray for his parents John and Nola, his sister Lisa, and his brothers Stuart, Ben, and Dominic. That they will be enabled to reach out the hand of faith to know the Presence and Peace of God.

A good company of friends and family gathered at the Church to pay their respects at the funeral of Mr. Reg Fessi. Reg was born at Birchley Heath 74 years ago. He was a very hard working gentleman whom the family will greatly miss. We pray for them.

"The Christmas Mystery Play" will take place in the Elim Pentecostal Church, The Butts, Coventry on Saturday, 10th December at 7.45 p.m. Tickets £2 (£1 concessions) on the door. For ticket reservations please telephone 0203 302558. More than 50 people will be taking part, with Leamington United Church Choir, Cast and musicians from the Churches in the Diocese. The Text is from St. Luke's Gospel with music from Taize and excerpts from popular traditional Carols.

The Youth for Christ team of five men and women will be responsible for leading our Monday Young People's Club at the Village Church Hall, commencing at 7.00 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. on Monday, 12th December. In the new year they have planned to come on six Mondays, namely January 9th and 23rd; February 6th and 20th; March 6th and 20th. They are a very lively team. Our young people are in for some very enjoyable evenings.

We thank Ansley Social Club for their kindness in allowing us the use of their big room for the Young People's Club with the Y.F.C., last month on November 28th.

Those helping to decorate the Church for the Christmas season are doing so on December 16th and 17th. Please lend a hand if you can.

Punch and Pudding is an evening out for the ladies. Rita Graham is called a colour analysis consultant. She will speak and demonstrate on the evening of Wednesday, December 7th at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £1.50. Punch and Pudding will be served during the evening. This event is held at the Miners' Welfare Hall, Ransome Road, New Arley.

Ansley Mothers' Union meet on Tuesday, 6th December at the home of Mrs. Varden. All members welcome at 2.30 p.m. Transport available if requested and it is a Bring and Buy. Winnie Ponder.

Christmas Bazaar is at 3.00 p.m., on Saturday, 10th December in the Village Church Hall. Stalls will include Cakes, Sweets and Gifts, Records, Stationery, Holly and Wreaths, Bottle, Farmers, White Elephant and a Hamper. Your orders for wreaths should be placed (if possible) in advance—telephone 0676 540298 or 0827 874520. There are large boxes placed in the Church porch for any items you would like to give for this event. Your support and encouragement and help as always is warmly appreciated.

Dine by Wheels arranged for Friday, 2nd December is well under way. Most customers have already purchased their ticket. If you have yet to do this please ring 0676 540298.

The Christmas Family Service on Sunday morning, 10.30 a.m., 18th December promises to be an enjoyable occasion. The children will be taking part, and there should be a present from the Christmas tree for the boys and girls. Again in the evening the **traditional Carol Service** will take place at 6.30 p.m. You are warmly welcome to both or either.

Christingle Service is arranged for Wednesday evening December 21st at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Church Hall. Margaret Oliver is kindly organising this especially for the Church of England Children's Society.

Our very special Christmas Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common will be on Thursday, December 22nd at 6.30 p.m. This is always enjoyable and appreciated both by the children and also, of course, by their parents. There will be light refreshments to follow.

Christmas Eve Communion will be at 10.00 p.m., at St. John's and 11.30 p.m. at The Parish Church. On Christmas Day there will be one service, i.e. the 10.30 a.m. Family Communion. There will be no evening service on Christmas Sunday night.

House Communion. If you are unable to get to Church and you would like to have the service of Holy Communion in your home, do please let me know.

At the 20th Anniversary Service of the reforming of the Sunday School Marie Cove read one of her poems. Here it is. It is called—

GOD'S CHILDREN

IF God could take all children,
And hold them in his hand,
If He could take these precious lives
From this and every land.
He'd let them know he loves them,
He'd let them know he cares,
They would have someone to turn to,
Someone who would care.
We should be God's carers,
We should be their friends,
No matter where they come from
To the earth's farthest end,
We can be God's ears and hands,
In this and all far off lands,
We can be the ones they turn to
The someone who would care.
Start tomorrow or even today,
If you can't take action,
Then pray and pray,
Listen to what children say,
Teach them songs, teach them prayers,
But first show them Christians care.

Marie Cove