

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 846

DECEMBER 1995

Price 20p



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.

Ansley Common St. John's 6.20 p.m.

Return Journey from Parish Church 7.45 p.m.

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Ansley Vicarage
1st December, 1995

Our Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Fiona Castle (the wife of the late Roy Castle) to a Coffee Morning on Thursday the 14th of this month to be held in Ansley Village Social Club.

We are grateful to the Social Club Committee for their willing and ready support in allowing us the use of their big room and facilities.

Tickets are on sale at £1. This will be used towards Fiona's travel expenses and other costs together with a donation to the fund Roy set up.

Fiona now lives at Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire, but she was born and brought up at West Kirby in Merseyside, where her family's home was open to various servicemen during the war. She remembers her mother being so busy, stretching the family's meagre rations to feed extra mouths, darning the men's socks, listening to their life stories, and helping in many other practical ways; as well as bring up four children. Fiona had a natural talent for dancing which led to a career in show business.

Roy came from a village just outside Huddersfield where the family lived in a tiny house. He was an only child, and sang regularly in the local Church Choir. Even as a boy he had a good strong voice, which later developed into a powerful tenor. He went into show business when he left school, and returned to it after his National Service in the R.A.F.

It was through their work in the show business world that brought Roy and Fiona to meet each other, and eventually to marry. They have four children.

During Roy's traumatic illness he was able to encourage others in many and varied ways; talking about it, sharing his fears, writing letters, urging fellow sufferers on to battle with brave determination to beat the 'bully' as he called it.

How she coped with the unexpected, qualifies Fiona to share with us things that we shall all find helpful. Battling against despair, against doubt, and against the fear of death.

We trust that you will make a special point of being with us.

Where will you spend Christmas? For most people it seems that the television will play a prominent part and for such; Jill Dando will be a familiar figure. Either as she presents the six o'clock news or informs viewers of some exotic seaside resort on the BBC's Holiday Programme.

Jill says that her Mother taught her the Christian Faith and took her to Sunday School. When she was 15 years she realised what it was all about and committed her life to Jesus. But her Mother's death from Leukaemia caused Jill considerable soul searching. "Why Mum?" she asked. But the end result she says, was a deepening of her faith and trust in God. "I had this inner peace that I'd never experienced before," She adds, "Now I want to live as God desires."

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU,

James, Catherine, Mark & Rebekah.

PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER 1995

Sunday, December 3rd — ADVENT SUNDAY

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

Tuesday, December 5th

- 3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union, Christmas Party.

Wednesday, December 6th

- 8.00 p.m. The Wednesday Fellowship.

Saturday, December 9th

- 3.00 p.m. The Christmas Fayre.

Sunday, December 10th — BIBLE SUNDAY

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion, Theme II Timothy 3 : 16.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Service, Theme Romans 15 : 4.

Thursday, December 14th

- 10.15 a.m. Coffee Morning, Ansley Social Club.
- Speaker: Fiona Castle.

Sunday, December 17th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Service, featuring "The Christmas Play."
- 6.30 p.m. The Carol Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Thursday, December 21st

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

Sunday, December 24th — CHRISTMAS EVE

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- No Evening Service.
- 10.00 p.m. Christmas Communion Service at St. John's Church Hall, Ansley Common.
- 11.30 p.m. Christmas Communion Service at the Parish Church.

Monday, December 25th

- 10.30 a.m. Christmas Day Communion.

Sunday, December 31st

- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

Every Tuesday

- 10.00 a.m. Senior Citizens, Ansley Village Church Hall.
- 6.00 p.m. Children's Club, Ansley Village Church Hall.
- 7.30 p.m. Youth Club, Ansley Village Church Hall.

Every Second Wednesday

- 6.30 p.m. Children's Explorers, Ansley Village Church Hall.

Every Thursday

- 10.30 a.m. Mothers' and Toddlers, Village Church Hall.
- 6.30 p.m. Children's Club at St. John's Hall, Ansley Common.

Every Friday

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

We offer Margaret Oliver our deepest sympathy as she mourns the loss her mother Mrs. Vera Chambers. Her death came as a sudden shock to all the family as it happened so suddenly. Many of our morning congregation will remember her so well. She was always friendly and pleasant, smiling and cheerful. We trust that Frank,

her husband; Margaret and all the family will be able to cast their burden of grief onto the Lord and know His sustaining Grace,

We are very grateful to John Sparrow and his wife Pauline for an enjoyable and instructive evening about the life of the Badger. We learnt a great deal, Country walks have been made more interesting as we now know signs to look for indicating Badger activity. £41.30 was added to the new building fund as a result.

Bring a friend to the Coffee Morning at which Fiona Castle will be the speaker at Ansley Social Club 10.15 a.m. for 10.30 a.m., on Thursday, December 14th. Tickets are on sale now at £1.

Sponsored Sing. Many thanks to all those who helped raise £432 in October. £304.50 has been given to the New Building Fund and £127.50 has been added to the Fabric Fund as specifically requested by the sponsors. Margaret Kimberley.

In the programme of events for December you will notice that the Children's Christmas play will be included in the Family Service on Sunday, December 17th at 10.30 a.m. Also the Carol Service at 6.30 p.m. will also be on that day. There will be no 6.30 p.m. Evening Service on Christmas Eve. Instead there will be the Christmas Communion Service at 10.00 p.m. at St. John's, Ansley Common and 11.30 p.m. at the Parish Church.

Nursery Hill First School will hold their **Christmas Fayre** on Friday, December 1st at 6.30 p.m.

Christmas Concert, Thursday, December 14th, 2.00 p.m. for parents, friends and Senior Citizens.

Friday, December 15th, 10.00 a.m. for parents and friends.

Join us for the special Christingle Service at St. John's, Ansley Common on Thursday, December 14th at 6.30 p.m. This is in aid of the Church of England Children's Society. The candle, orange, ribbon, nuts and raisins together, convey a significant message which each child will receive. Refreshments will also be served.

The Christmas Fayre. This will be in Ansley Village Church Hall on Saturday, December 9th at 3.00 p.m. Christmas wreaths can be ordered in advance by ringing 01827 874520 or 01676 540298 and collected at the Fayre. There will be a variety of stalls as usual together with refreshments. Entrance 20p per Adult, Children free.

Our Bishop writes about the Diocesan Conference to which three members of our Church will go in February next year. The Conference begins with the premise that the Church has to change almost beyond our imaginations to be alive for the new century. Seniority and experience may not be the best credentials to prepare for such radical change. On the other hand, a mature rootedness in prayer is going to be essential. This Conference offers our Diocese something special. There are signs that the Spirit is moving. There is a growing spiritual hunger amongst our Contemporaries. If we are not ready now for a change and growth, I fear we might miss the moment. Through the February Conference God is giving us an opportunity to meet together and be drawn afresh into His will and purpose.

We shall meet for prayer and worship. What the delegates take back with us to our parishes could have vital consequences. The conference could be a matter of life or death. It surely is a summons to life through death for us all.

Simon Coventry

GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

God's commandments we all know so well.
To Moses these rules the Almighty did tell.
A code for life, the way to behave,
Obey these commandments your souls to save.
These simple rules could make life so good,
Each one caring for the other as they should,
Love for father and mother as a matter of course,
Giving them back what we know is their worth.
With marriage made sacred and promises kept.
The family life is safe and children blest,
Possessions safe when honesty reigns
And lives really valued not taken for gain,
No envy, no blaspheming, no lies or deceit,
Just love for each other as God has decreed.
But life with the greatest commandment should start,
Love the Lord your God with all your strength and heart.

Marie Cove.

Norton House. As in previous years Norton House will be open to offer help.

The Norton House staff provide an invaluable service to those less fortunate than ourselves. This year we need your support more than ever, can you help us with donations, food or clothing, so that we can at least try to bring a little bit of sunshine into our clients lives.

Perhaps you have unwanted gifts from last year, we try to give a small present to each client, we also give a small food hamper to help them over the Christmas season. Norton House is open 364 days a year, the only day that we close is on Christmas Day, and our services are moved to Holy Trinity Church Centre to help provide Christmas dinner for the homeless and lonely.

Please give your support whether financial or in goods, every little helps. If you would like to volunteer over the Christmas period please do not hesitate in contacting me, Telephone: 226030.



ANSLEY CHURCH HALL

Christmas Fayre

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th

Entrance 20p

A Variety of Stalls

