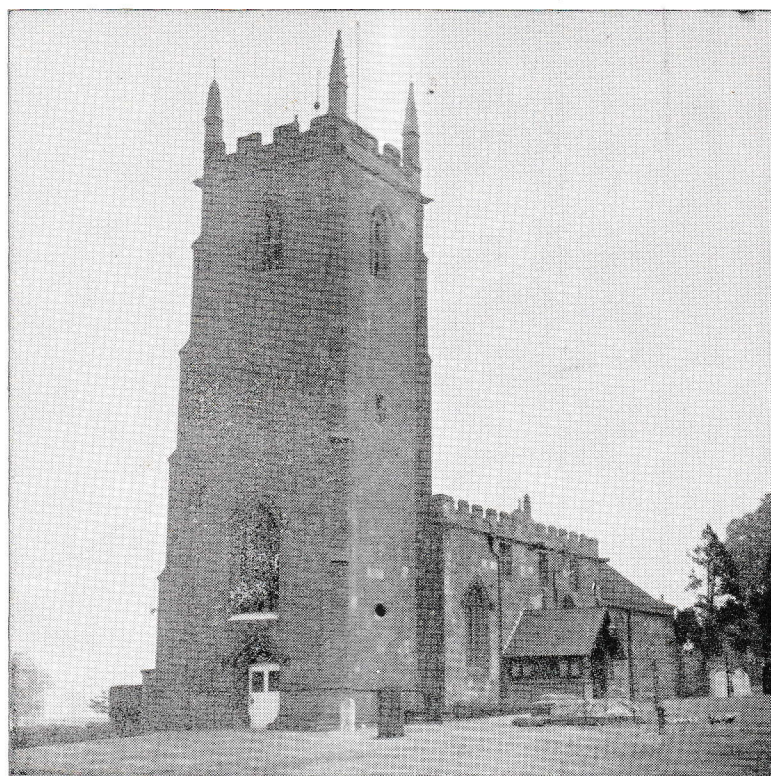


ANSLEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

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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

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.

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Ansley Vicarage

May 1st, 1992

Our Dear Friends,

In his book 'God's Smuggler,' Brother Andrew relates an occasion when he arrived late one Saturday night in a place called Cluj in Romania; the year was 1968, and the next morning asked the hotel receptionist where he could find a church. The clerk looked at him suspiciously and told him, "We don't have many of those, and in any case you wouldn't understand the language."

That's O.K., said Brother Andrew, "Christians speak a kind of universal language." "What's that?" said the clerk, "Agape!" "Never heard of it," replied the clerk.

"Pity, it's the most beautiful language in the world."

The following Sunday, Brother Andrew met the minister of a Church in his office and was frustrated to find that neither he nor his secretary spoke a word of Andrew's languages, nor he theirs. Then Andrew saw that the minister had a well-worn Romanian Bible on his desk, so he took out his own Dutch Bible and turned to 1 Corinthians 16 v 20. 'All the brothers here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.' He held out his Bible so that they could see the name of the book—recognisable in any language—and pointed out the chapter and verse. Their faces lit up as they found the same verse in the Romanian Bible and read it.

Then the minister thumbed through his Bible until he found Proverbs 25 v 25, 'Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.' For half an hour they continued, laughing with tears of joy in their eyes as they searched for just the verses they needed.

That evening, as Andrew entered the hotel, the receptionist stopped him. "Say," he said, "I looked up that 'agape' in the dictionary. There's no language by that name. It's just a Greek word for love."

"Quite so," said Brother Andrew, "I was speaking in it all afternoon."

This 'agape' has been the driving force behind many people who live their lives, not selfishly but, sacrificially; giving their time, their intelligence, their gifts, their money, and some even their lives that others may become aware of God.

On the 28th of this month the Christian family throughout the world celebrates the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, the greatest lover of all time; indeed it was He who introduced to our planet the 'agape' quality of sacrificial love. He had paid the price for sin, defeated Satan, and broken the power of that which we fear most; death itself.

Pray that God will give each of us something of His quality of sacrificial love in all our relationships with each other.

God bless you,

James, Catherine, Mark and Rebekah.

DIARY FOR MAY

Friday, May 1st

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, May 3rd

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer, A.S.B. The Rev. G. Angel.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. 1662 Prayer Book, The Rev. G. Angel.

Monday, May 4th

10.00 a.m. Coffee Morning at 'Merrybrook' Cottage.

Tuesday, May 5th

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union.

Wednesday, May 6th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies—Ramble (weather permitting).

Thursday, May 7th

7.45 p.m. Ley Group Council Meeting at Arley.

Friday, May 8th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Sunday, May 10th

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Wednesday, May 13th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Friday, May 15th

6.45 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

Saturday, May 16th

7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Barbecue on Recreation Field at Bretts Hall Estate, Ansley Common.

Sunday, May 17th

11.00 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Parish Communion.

Tuesday, May 19th

7.30 p.m. "Joseph and his Techni-colour dream coat."
St. Mary's, Atherstone.

Wednesday, May 20th

8.00 p.m. Ansley Ladies. Speaker to be arranged.

Thursday, May 21st

2.00 to 4.00 p.m. and 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. Bedding Plant Sale.

Friday, May 22nd

6.30 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

7.30 p.m. Renewal Service at St. James, Tile Hill.

Sunday, May 24th

10.00 a.m. Family Service at St. John's, Ansley Common.

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer. A.S.B.

Wednesday, May 27th

8.00 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship.

Thursday, May 28th

7.30 p.m. Ascension Day Service at Arley Methodist Church.
The Rev. Bill Hughes.

Friday, May 29th

6.30 p.m. Meeting for Prayer in Church.

7.30 p.m. Renewal Service at St. Mary's, Atherstone.

Sunday, May 31st

11.00 a.m. Family Communion.

6.30 p.m. Guest Service.

At both the morning and evening services on Sunday, May 3rd, the Rev. Gervais Angel will preach on behalf of the South American Missionary Society. At the moment of writing he is still in South America, so he will have first hand information to share with us.

Coffee Morning May Day Bank Holiday 10.00 a.m. to noon at Mr. Henry Truelove's home. We are assured of a warm welcome and a happy occasion.

Barbecue evening on Saturday, May 16th will be held from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on the Recreation Field at Bretts Hall Estate, Ansley Common. Mrs. Eileen Swain is organising some stalls to sell various items and barbecued food will be on sale. Gospel music will be sung to the accompaniment of The Rev. Paul Norton and his Bedworth music group, housed in the marquee. Offers of help to erect the marquee between 5.30 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. and to take it down around 9.00 p.m. will be greatly appreciated; and you are invited to join in the evening's event.

A Bus is being organised to transport you to see "Joseph and his technicolour dream coat" on Tuesday, 19th May at St. Mary's Church, Atherstone. This performance is being staged by St. Mary's Young People.

Confirmation Classes will commence shortly. If you would like to be included in, will you please call at the vicarage on the evening of Thursday, 21st May and put your name down. This way we can arrange for the classes to take place at times most convenient.

We look forward to the Bedding Plant sale during the afternoon and evening of Thursday, 21st May. Do bring your gifts of plants and also buy from the wide variety of plants we expect to be available.

Our Gift Day this year is on Sunday, 14th June. Do please take a gift day box from the literature table in Church if you have not already done so, and your special contribution will be very welcome.

Ascension Day this year is on Thursday, 28th May. The occasion will be celebrated with a special evening service at Arley Methodist Church whose turn it is to host it. The service is at 7.30 p.m., conducted by The Rev. Bill Hughes of St. John's Methodist Church, Nuneaton. Afterwards there will be a Holy Communion Service for the Methodist Circuit. Do make this a **must** as we join together.

There are five Sundays in May and in the evening of May 31st we shall have a Guest Service. Make a note of this in your diary and bring a friend.

Renewal Service on Friday, 29th May is at St. Mary's Church, Atherstone at 7.30 p.m. Details will be put up on the Church Notice Board.

Mums and Toddlers meet every Thursday morning in Ansley Village Church Hall, 10.30 a.m., for a chat and drinks and playtime.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Burial—"The Valley of the Shadow of Death"

April 3—Luther Buckler, 87 years, from Chapel End.

In memory of Mr. John Ivor Biggs the Church has received donations amounting to £182. We are very grateful to those who gave and to Mr. Biggs' family who made the arrangements for gifts to be offered instead of flowers.

Mothers' Union. Coventry Diocese Festival Service in Coventry Cathedral at 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 21st May. The theme will be "Pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit that we may truly love and serve You." Preacher will be the Bishop of Warwick. W. Ponder.

Best Kept Churchyard Competition has entered our Churchyard once again this year. The competition aims to stimulate pride and improvement in the appearance of Churchyards. District judging takes place between 1st May and 30th June. District winners go forward for County judging during July. Please help us to keep the place presentable by removing dead flowers, rubbish and paper.

Thank you to the many who helped and supported in many ways the April Plant Sale, a wide variety of plants was brought and sold, resulting in £125 being added to the hall funds.

Prior to the Mothers' Union Festival will be a one hour devotion led by Canon Michael Sadgrove of the Cathedral staff. This commences at 11.30 a.m., on May 21st. W. Ponder.

At our own Mothers' Union meeting on Tuesday, 5th May at 3.00 p.m., in Ansley Village Church Hall, Mrs. Amy Alton will be the speaker. W. Ponder.

A LETTER FROM PETE, LYNDY AND LUKE VALENTINE IN CHILE

Dear Friends,

EASTER GREETINGS FROM CHILE

We arrived 22nd January, 1992 straight into a southern hemisphere summer with afternoon temperatures above 30°C almost every day. We are living near the centre of Santiago—capital city, not the best place to be when it gets hot! Home is a 7th floor apartment on quite a noisy route. Traffic seems to run 24 hours a day.

We praise God that there is a well equipped park close by where we go as often as we can with Luke. Occasionally we get to speak with some other parents at the park which is good for our language learning. Living in a busy capital city does not present itself as the ideal place for casual conversation encounters, but again we praise God that Chilean people are helpful, friendly and very patient. By the way, our Spanish is getting better, many thanks for all your prayers.

Many thanks also for all your cards, letters, presents and words of encouragement. So far we have replied to over 90 letters, etc. Please be patient if yours has not been answered yet. It will be! Finally, if you have a photo of yourself/family please send it with your next letter. It will help us when we pray for you.

Yours with love, Pete, Lyndy and Luke.

Friday, 22nd May—"Sustaining Renewal" at St. James, Tile Hill with Roger Turner and Team.

Roger is the Vicar of St. John's Kenilworth, a church with much experience of renewal. Roger will be helping us to think through what it means to stay at the forefront of what God is doing in his church.

On the morning of Saturday, 23rd May there will be a seminar which will follow up this theme in more depth. W. Ponder.