

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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## **FEBRUARY 2000 — NEWSLETTER**

Dear Friends,

There has been a lot in the media recently about how churches are declining. Radio and television interviewers seem almost to enjoy this. It's as if they are saying 'we knew the church was good for nothing, and now we've got proof.'

So how should we respond to this? By feeling guilty because we are a failure? That seems to me to be a very negative way of looking at it, and God is never negative. He is always positive, always constructive, always creative, always doing new things and asking us to help Him.

So let's look at the positive side. The Christian church is involved in helping every kind of human need, in this nation and throughout the world. One of the thickest books we possess is the handbook of Christian organisations, with Christians trying to meet the needs of children, the elderly, the abused, the hungry, the homeless, the disabled, and anything you can think of.

So the media have got it wrong in some ways. The church is not just about how full the building is on a Sunday. It's about a lively, caring community acting out God's love in the world.

But we do need to ask the question. What can we do, as a local church, to draw more people into this community so that they can experience the love of God for themselves? Here, from the magazine of the Church and Community Trust, are

### **10 Ways to Grow your Church**

- 1—Show people you are there for them, Actions speak louder than words.
- 2—Pray!
- 3—Be patient.
- 4—Make use of the power of friendship.
- 5—Be open to new ideas, Try anything. If it doesn't work—that's OK—at least you tried. Better to fail than to stifle the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 6—God gives gifts to all Christians, not just the clergy. Let your congregation use their gifts.
- 7—Develop the worship of the church, It doesn't matter what tradition it is: worship should be an encounter with the living God.
- 8—Provide relevant, challenging, accessible preaching that asks for a response.
- 9—Trust in God to guide you.
- 10—Don't be afraid, Be bold!

How are we doing?

In God's love,

Gill and Geoff.

## **SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY**

**Theme: Christian lifestyle**

**Services at St. John's Hall are at 10.15 a.m. on 13th and 27th February.**

**Services at St. Laurence's are at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.**

February 6—am Family Service,  
pm Prayer Book Communion.

February 13—am Holy Communion by Extension (Geoff on Alpha Day),  
pm Prayer Book Evensong.

February 20—am Morning Prayer.  
pm ASB Holy Communion with prayer for healing.

February 27—am Holy Communion with prayer for healing.  
pm Prayer Book Evensong.

**Mid-week services: Tuesday, 1st February at 9.30 at St. John's: Holy Communion.**

**Tuesday, 15th February at 9.30 at the village hall: Shorter Morning Prayer.**

**Please note that home communions this month will be on 8th February.**

### **February events:**

Every Monday at 7.00 p.m.: LINKS children's group (7-11 years) in village hall.

Monday Fellowship: January 31st, February 14th and February 28th at 7.30 p.m. in St. John's Hall (please note later time).

Wednesday, 2nd February: Rev. Howard Gordon speaks about visiting those who are ill or depressed: 7.30 p.m. at St. Wilfrid's Upper Room, Old Arley. For pastoral visitors and those interested in this subject.

Thursday, 3rd February: Social Committee meets at 7.30 p.m. at the Rectory.

Wednesday, 9th February: For pastoral visitors, Geoff and Gill speak on pastoral care and confidentiality; also at St. Wilfrid's at 7.30 p.m.

Monday, 14th February: 1.30 p.m. Churchwardens meet at the Rectory.

Wednesday, 16th February: Geoff and Gill on diocesan training day about child protection.

7.30 p.m.: LINKS leaders meet at 135 Tunnel Road.

Thursday, 17th February: PCC in village church hall at 7.45 p.m.

Wednesday, 23rd February at 2.00 p.m.: Prayer Group meets at 10 Nuthurst Crescent.



**Thursday, 24th February: Millennium cheese and wine (or fruit juice) party in the village hall. Tickets £3.50 from church members. This is a great opportunity to invite friends along and relax together. The 4th way to grow our church—'Make use of the power of friendship!' (see newsletter).**

Any surplus funds from church events will, at the end of this year, go to a charity nominated by the PCC. Suggestions are welcome and will be considered.

Many thanks to LINKS leaders for all their hard work in organising the millennium disco and the Blue Peter Bring and Buy sale.

#### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

Our sympathy and prayers go to Jean and Joanne Spencer and family on the loss of William Hindle from Tunnel Road, who was buried near Northampton.

Also to Margaret Jones and her family on the loss of her husband Harry at the age of 78.

We remember Jean Chinn with affection.

Gill Kimber.

Harry Jones, who died on January 7th, was a wonderful husband to Margaret for 54 years and a loving father to his three sons. He was held in great affection, not only by family and present friends, but also by Ansley School friends of many years ago, who remember his quiet manner and gentle ways. He had a great love of Ansley Church and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Jean Chinn who also died recently aged 65 years, lived in Ansley Village before moving to Nuneaton could be seen sitting in church in the same seat occupied previously by her mother and father on every special occasion and always brought jam jars for the marmalade. She will be remembered with affection by all who knew her.

The harvest is great, the workers are few. Pick up the challenge. Telephone: 01676 540298.

We would like to express thanks to everyone who has organised events, donated money or prizes to events, to the St. John's Ramp Fund. The response has been great and every event a success, and we are sorry we cannot name everyone individually, but it has really been a great effort. Now that the Planning Permission for vehicle access has gone before the Council, we hope work will soon go ahead. Thank you all very much.

## EDITORIAL

1st February, 2000

February is with us once more, Snowdrops will soon fill the forest floor.

February heralds the spring in many ways. It bids farewell to those Winter days.

So watch those signs of days not quite so long, and the birds even sing a brighter song.

Well, it seems it is all over bar the shouting! The new century is with us and it certainly came in with a bang with the magnificent firework displays all over the world. It was not the 'big bang' expected from the millennium bug and we thank God for that. Let us hope and pray that the way 2000 was heralded with peace, harmony, friendship and accord will continue for a long, long time to come. This was borne out in a service the day after New Year's Day at Westminster Abbey when representatives from all religions gathered, along with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Queen, and the following promise was read out by children:

Let there be respect for the world; Peace for it's people,  
Love in our lives. Delight in the good,  
Forgiveness for past wrongs and from now on a new start'

You must admit these are very inspiring words and demand a lot from us all.

It is simply amazing just how many kinds of weather we here in Britain can experience in 24 hours. One morning in early January I went outside to fetch in the milk and the sky was beautiful with a small crescent moon and lots of stars, all the cars sparkled with frost and it was really cold, but when I went to work only half an hour later, it was foggy, milder and very grey. This was all in the space of a few minutes, and taking the magazines round at the beginning of January the weather was glorious, sunny, not cold and even the customers remarked that it was unusual for me to be collecting in the magazine money on such a day, when I was usually frozen. You could say it all adds to the spice of life.

Does anyone prepare Brussels sprouts by cutting a cross in the base? My mother taught us to do this and we often wondered why. My younger sister, who hated sprouts, or any green vegetables, said it was to let the slugs and caterpillars out, and so we always carefully dissected our sprouts to make quite sure none were left inside. Has anyone any other ideas?

Marie Cove.