

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

---

No. 909

MARCH 2001

Price 25p

---



**Priest in Charge:**

REV. GEOFF KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

**Parish Deacon (Half-time):**

REV. GILL KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

**Wardens:**

MARGARET ANTILL

Tel.: 01827 874520

MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel.: 024 7638 1833

**Deputy Wardens:**

JOYCE ALLTON

Tel.: 01827 713016

DAVID COVE

Tel.: 024 7639 4114

ANTHONY TRUELOVE

Tel.: 01676 541105

---

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel: (024) 7638 2902

Dear Friends,

### **The best news this year**

Two things have happened to the Kimber family in the last few days. Firstly there was the letter—one of those regular letters—telling us that we were virtually certain to win thousands of pounds if we would just send back the enclosed form. We binned that one. Nobody believes all that rubbish these days.

Then there was the phone call. It had been a long day, and we were about to sit down in front of the telly, when the phone rang. It was our eldest daughter. "Mauricio and I are going to get married!" How do you think we responded? Did Gill say, "That's very nice dear, goodbye," and go on with her programme? Not likely. The news turned our evening upside down. There was excitement. The phone was red hot by the end of the evening, as we phoned round so many family and friends to share the good news.

And of course the church is all about good news, and like our family news, it is good news about love—God's love for us. The question is, how do we respond? Do we say, "Very interesting, I'm sure," and go on with our TV programme, or do we feel excited and want to share it. The decline of the church in our country today is linked to the decline in our enthusiasm for our message about the love of God.

Actually, the person who gets most excited about a forthcoming marriage is the bride. She is the one who is loved, and to whom the proposal has been made. And we are each like that bride. The Bible is God's proposal of marriage to each one of us—his letter telling us he loves us.

Two questions arise. Firstly, what kind of letter will we write back? Will it be an acceptance of his love, or a "Dear John"—a refusal. Actually, most people just bin the letter—like the Readers' Digest offers telling us we are well on the way to winning thousands! We simply do not take his offer seriously.

Secondly, what are we going to do with this good news? We shared it widely. But it demands more than that—it has already cost us a lot for air tickets so that we can be there. Our love for our daughter has a very down to earth angle: getting there, getting the time off, arranging our lives around this good news. Good news is not cheap.

And neither is the good news that God loves us. If we respond to that love, it is going to throw our lives into a certain confusion. Nevertheless, however much it takes, we are not going to miss our daughter's wedding—and I hope that's how you feel about God's love for you. After all his love for us is

### **The best news this year**

With our love  
Geoff and Gill.



## **SERVICES FOR MARCH 2001**

**Theme: Broken laws—broken hearts**

### **At St. John's Hall, Ansley Common**

There will be one service this month on March 11th. March 25th is Mothering Sunday when there will be a united service at St. Laurence. A taxi is available for the morning service as well as the evening; please let Margaret Antill know (phone number on the cover).

### **At St Laurence's Church**

Services are at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

March 4: a.m. All Age Worship.  
p.m. Traditional Holy Communion.

March 11: a.m. Holy Communion,  
p.m. Evensong.

March 18: a.m. Morning Prayer.  
p.m. Holy Communion.

March 25: a.m. **MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE.**  
p.m. Evensong.

### **Mid-Week Service**

March 20: at 9.30 a.m. in the Village Church Hall: Holy Communion for Easter.

### **MARCH DIARY**

March 5 and 19: Monday evenings at Margaret Knight's house; Ansley Common Fellowship.

At 7.00 p.m. every Monday during term-time in Village Church Hall: LINKS Children's Club for 7-10's.

March 7: 3.00 p.m. prayer time at the Rectory.

March 14 and 28: Wednesday Fellowship, usually at Bill and Mandy's home.

March 21: Coffee evening to raise money for Tear Fund's Children at Risk Project, at 10 Nuthurst Crescent, from 7.30 p.m. All welcome. There will be a video, also a Bring and Buy and a raffle.

March 22: 7.45 p.m. PCC.

March 29: 7.45 p.m. AGM. Both in the Village Church Hall.

You may like to know that Holy Trinity Hartshill is getting a new vicar. He is the Rev. Laurie Beard, who will be instituted at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, 31st March. Please pray for him and his family. They are moving from Wolverhampton.

### **DEANERY LAY TRAINING COURSE: 'BODYBUILDER!'**

For some time it has been on my heart to provide a training course for church people in North Warwickshire that does not entail trekking to the far end of the diocese! With the encouragement of the Archdeacon, Rural Dean and clergy chapter I am working with Rev. Andrew Wadsworth, vicar of Bulkington, and Rev. Elizabeth Dyke, Team Vicar at Bedworth, on producing such a course. It will be relevant, practical and local.

The first module is on prayer, as stated in last month's magazine. This is because prayer is the basis for all we do. There will be 5 sessions from March 5th to April 2nd, as follows:

March 5—The New Testament and the prayer of Jesus.

March 12—The Old Testament and praying with Scripture.

March 19—Christian Spirituality and Prayer.

March 26—Leading public intercessions.

April 2—Leading prayer in small groups.

They will take place in the Upper Room at Holy Trinity Attleborough at 7.30 p.m. These first sessions are free, but donations are welcome. Please bring a Bible and notepad. They will be led by different people in the deanery. All are welcome, but if you want this to build your gifts for public ministry in the church, you need the support of your vicar!

After Easter there will be a module on faith-sharing, called Lost for Words. In the autumn the module will be on Pastoral Care. We are hoping that those who complete all the modules will eventually receive a Bishop's certificate, enabling them to play a more effective part in the Body of Christ, the church. Gill Kimber.

#### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

Our love, prayers and support go to the families of Ronald Newcombe, aged 77 of 277 Birmingham Road. Also to Nick and Sue Morris on the sad loss of a premature twin, Jack. Please pray for the surviving twin Claire, who, although tiny, is doing well.

#### **TEAR FUND: CHILDREN AT RISK**

Please note that all money donated to Tear Fund goes to their Children at Risk project. This brings care to the world's most vulnerable children, including relief for refugees, education and safety for street children, trauma counselling for children who have lost parents or been abused, and specialist care for disabled children.

I was touched by the story of Jean, a lad of twelve in Rwanda, who has lost both parents. He has 3 brothers and they were beaten by their uncle. A Tearfund partner stepped in, reported the uncle and offered Jean and his brothers a safe place in the church community. They also now have regular food and proper clothes. You may be sure your money will go to very well-worth-while causes. The new Sunday School at Ansley Common has decided to put all their collections in the Tear Fund box.

#### **A NEW CHURCH ANNEXE**

With this magazine you should find a leaflet about a new church room at St. Laurence's. This is because the present toilet block is in a very poor state and needs replacing. There are also other needs which are explained in the leaflet. Please read it carefully. It is the fruit of much discussion with the PCC and the planning authorities, but most of all we need the support of everyone to make it a reality.

## **WEDDING BELLS**

Geoff and Gill are delighted to announce that their eldest daughter, Hannah, will be married to Mr. Mauricio de Valenzuela in Otavalo, Ecuador on 31st March. We will disappear for a couple of weeks to attend the festivities!

**Tear Fund Collections for February**—St. Laurence £15; St. John's Hall £16.57. Many thanks to all who contributed.

March 10th: 2.00-4.00 p.m., Ansley Church Hall—Comic Relief. Bring and Buy, Raffle, Books. Please support this very good cause.

Marie Cove

The Senior Citizens are having a coffee morning in aid of the Church Hall roof on Tuesday, 27th March from 10.00 a.m. The entrance will be 50p each and this will include a cup of tea or coffee and a cake, etc. There will be a bring and buy stall. Any gifts for the stall will be much appreciated. Everyone is most welcome.

On March 17th the Coventry District of Bell Ringers will be having a meeting at the Church during the afternoon. Anyone will be most welcome to come and have a listen or to watch, and if you are interested find out more about bell ringing.

As last year we are going to have the Church open for visitors on the Saturday before Mothering Sunday, which is March 24th. It will be open from 10.00 a.m. for anyone wishing for a few quiet moments, there will also be some light refreshments. On display will be a History project that was used at the Ansley 2000 event.

On Friday, 9th March at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Church Hall Dr. Bland will be giving a slide show of some of the pictures that he obtained for the Ansley remembered book. It is 13 years since he last gave this show and it was much talked about at that time and since. There will be refreshments and a raffle. Entrance will be £4.00. The proceeds are in aid of the Church Hall roof.

## **Chancel Ceiling**

Some of you may have noticed a crack in the chancel ceiling. At a meeting of the building committee it was agreed to investigate the problem. When the scaffolding tower was up it was found that an original piece of wood around which the plaster moulding was built had gone rotten and had consequently dropped, thus causing the crack. After obtaining the necessary permissions it was agreed that the repairs be completed while the scaffolding was still in Church. The total cost being just under £900.00. As the Diocesan adviser said when he inspected the ceiling it was something special and needed to be looked after with care.