

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 886

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Priest in Charge:

REV. GEOFF KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

Parish Deacon (Half-time):

REV. GILL KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

Warden & Lay Chairman of P.C.C.:

GEORGE PONDER

Tel.: 392401

Warden:

MARGARET ANTILL

Tel.: 01827 874520

Deputy Wardens:

JOYCE ALLTON

Tel.: 01827 713016

DAVID COVE

Tel.: 394114

ANTHONY TRUELOVE

Tel.: 01676 541105

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel.: (01203) 382902

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Arley Rectory
Coventry CV7 8RD

Tel: 01676 540378

Dear Friends,

'This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow:
My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow . . . '

Praise God for Easter! Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would not be able to sing songs like this one.

First of all, there would be no joy. There would be no hope. There would be no heavenly future for those who believe in Jesus. A sad prospect indeed.

We could do nothing about the sin and sorrow in ourselves and in the world. We would have to live in our sin, and die in sorrow, with no real prospect of forgiveness, and no hope for a heavenly future without pain. The resurrection of Jesus means that our sin does come to an end, and that where He is, there is joy.

It's all because Jesus, the Son of God, crucified by his enemies in a real place and at a real time, buried by his friends, was the first person in history to burst the bonds of death. He returned to life—not this limited, earthly life, but new resurrection life.

And why? It was all for us, so that we could have the hope of knowing that there would be an end to sin and sorrow. This is the Christian's joy and belief, the reason we praise God this Eastertime, the reason we want to share this good news with others.

Easter means that this life is not all there is. We can look forward to more, if we are learning to love Jesus as God's Son and our Lord and Saviour. If we believe in him and walk in his way of love, then we can look forward to what his resurrection has won for us.

'I saw a new heaven and a new earth . . . And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Let us live our everyday lives in the light of this hope, and be Easter people all the year round.

Yours in God's resurrection love,
Gill and Geoff.

SERVICES FOR APRIL. This month's theme: **Resurrection witnesses**
The Family services at **St. John's Hall** are 11th and 25th April at 10.15 a.m.

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

April 4—EASTER DAY

8.00 a.m. Traditional Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Family Communion, **Guests: Rev. James and Sr Catherine Jasper.**

6.30 p.m. Easter Praise. **Guest: The Ven. Ian Russell, Archdeacon of Coventry.**

April 11—a.m. Holy Communion with Canon Derek Jupe.
p.m. Traditional Evening.

April 18—a.m. Morning Prayer.
p.m. ASB Holy Communion with Rev. Peter Dodds.

April 25—a.m. Holy Communion,
p.m. Traditional Evensong.

Mid-Week Service

Dave Cove will lead a short service at St. John's Hall on Tuesday, 6th April at 9.30 a.m.

Please note: **there will be no service** before Senior Citizens meet on the 3rd Tuesday, as many of them will be on holiday. Normal service will be resumed in May!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April 1st—Maundy Thursday. We meet together in St. John's Hall at 7.30 p.m. to remember the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples.

April 2nd—Good Friday Vigil will be held at 7.30 p.m., at St. Laurence's church.

April 3rd—Willing hands needed to decorate the church for Easter from 10.00 a.m. We would be grateful for donations towards the cost of the Easter flowers.

April 28th—Fellowship groups resume.

April 29th—7.45 p.m. AGM in Ansley Village Church Hall, followed by a brief PCC.

LOOKING AHEAD, we welcome a speaker from the Gideons at St. Laurence on the morning of Sunday, 2nd May. Come along and find out why they put those Bibles in schools, hotels, and prisons!

On Saturday, 22nd May we have our first Open Afternoon at the church. The PCC decided recently to open the church each fortnight, on a Saturday afternoon from 2.00-5.00 p.m., until the autumn. Those who come and tend graves are welcome to pop in for a few quiet minutes, and visitors can see round the church. Refreshments are available.

FROM THE REGISTER

Our prayers and sympathy go to the families of Elsie Mason (71) and Leonard Beasley (73) both from Birmingham Road.

What sort of SOCIAL EVENTS would you like to see in these villages? We want to hear from those who have some good ideas! Please get in touch with Margaret Kimberley (01203) 384680 who is co-ordinator for the new steering group set up by the PCC to organise some fun and enjoyment. So get those ideas rolling in.

To book St. John's Hall—contact Bill Knight, 1 Nursery Road, Ansley Common. Tel: 01203 397905.

The Parish Council has put a bench near the old pit site with a plaque saying:

Anthony (Toddy) Rollison,
A big man with a big heart,
Truly the last of the Summer wine.

This is in recognition for all the work that Toddy did for the Parish over so many years, especially in Ansley Common.

The P.C.C. wish to thank and acknowledge receipt of just over £40 which were the proceeds of the very enjoyable evening on February 23rd when June Maidens, Sue White and their Company produced "The Hard Men." A play about mining in the area over the last 40 years.

Many thanks to everyone who supported or helped at the Fashion Show on Monday, 8th March at Oakridge Golf Club. The room was full to capacity and everyone enjoyed a good evening with lots of bargains. The fantastic sum of £573 was raised for the Acorns Children's Hospice. Thank you all. Marie Cove.

Millennium 2000: Slides of Ansley's Past were greatly enjoyed at Ansley Village and subsequently at Ansley Common. Rita Calwood gave us a great insight into the History of the Parish and it was good to see familiar places and the part they played in the history of this area, and especially of how different life was in those days. Thank you Rita.

EDITORIAL

1st April, 1999

I don't know if any of you are like me and love watching the night sky. It is fascinating to see the changes in the moon and this winter especially it seems to have been so vivid and clear at times it looked like something cut out and stuck onto the dark sky. Some nights the moon was surrounded by hundreds and hundreds of stars and I'm sure if I knew how to look there were the constellations all set out. It reminded me of the children's hymn "Can you count the stars that brightly twinkle in the midnight sky." Also there were two especially large bright stars, which I was told were Venus and Neptune but I couldn't be sure, so if anyone knows the names of these stars I would be very interested.

Well, Spring is here and we are all so happy to welcome it, not that we have had what could be called a hard winter, but the nights and mornings are lighter and everyone seems to come out of their shells to greet each other. When we were at school we learned how certain animals stored food and then hibernated for the winter, and we all had tortoises which we put in boxes with straw for the winter. Well, as we get a bit older we are all a bit like those hibernating animals. We do what we have to do during daylight hours and then we go inside, shut the door and many of us would rather not go out again until the next morning. Perhaps this is why people years ago went to bed very early and got up early, especially as there was no central heating and hot water bottles and the shelves out of the oven wrapped in cloth were very popular. Some of us wore more clothes to bed than we wear now during the day, but we never had slippers or dressing gowns and that lino on the bedroom floor was like stepping onto an iceberg. Even going to the toilet was like torture as ours was outside in the veranda, but many had to go to the bottom of the garden, which most of us cannot imagine today with all mod-cons.

My little grand-daughter asked me if I had any dolly pegs as the teacher wanted them to take one to school. I hadn't seen any for a long time so I asked on Nuneaton market and the man there brought me a bag full. He said he had thrown lots of them away as nobody wanted them any more. It seems the children are going to make peg dolls. This got me remembering when we used to do French knitting with the cotton bobbin and 4 small nails, but now the cotton reels are not wood, but plastic, so the nails won't go in. You can, however, buy the bobbins ready made in art shops. Does anyone know why it is called French knitting or why French cricket where you stand still with the bat is so called? Is it just that they originated in France—perhaps not.

April must be one of the best months of the year, as everything wakes from winter sleep with new growth and vigour. This is also the first holiday, even though only two days, since Christmas, nearly 4 months. The bulbs and other flowers are very welcome and we pass through Lent to Easter which tells us of the miracle of new life after the suffering and sorrow of Jesus Christ.

Have a lovely Easter,
Marie Cove.