

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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APRIL NEWSLETTER 2002

Time is fleeting

As we say farewell to Gill and Geoff and wish them 'God speed' on their journey to a new challenge in their lives, we realise how precious 'time' is. Time spent with our children, parents, grandparents, friends and time spent in fellowship with other Christians.

Someone said on the radio that many people today are 'Cash rich but time poor.' They are so rich they are employing butlers to cater to their every need, even buying birthday and Christmas presents. This wealth does not, however, buy them leisure or quality time to spend with families and friends. No, far from it! More time is available to work long hours and earn more money.

Time is indeed a very precious commodity as it can only be used once, cannot be bought or replenished, so should be used very carefully. Jesus spent only a few years living on earth but during that time he reached so many people, making an impression on their lives which endured and changed the world for ever, leaving a message which would be passed from generation to generation for over 2000 years.

How many times have you heard people say "If I could see my time over again" or "Time and tide waits for no man." Time is like a photograph, we only get one chance and that moment can never be captured again. Many years ago when I was 17 years old, I was bridesmaid to a friend the week before Christmas. It was bitterly cold and my teeth were chattering in a pretty organdie dress with short sleeves, as we had the photographs taken. One gentleman was so concerned he took off his overcoat and put it around my shoulders. Unfortunately the photographs turned out hazy so we had to go to the Studio for a re-take. I still have an

original and a second take, but I still prefer the original as somehow the special moment could not be captivated again.

I was reading a copy of the cover of a newspaper dated February 1952, which reported on the accession of our Queen and the funeral of George VI. It said the King's funeral was estimated to have cost 58 thousand pounds. Incidentally, the cost of the newspaper was one penny, and in those days there were 240 pennies to the pound. Newspapers today cost between 30p and 50p weekdays and 60p to 1 pound on Sunday. Times certainly have changed, but to defend the newspapers a little, most weekend papers have T.V. guide, Sports Section, etc., so perhaps that makes it a little more reasonable.

As I love the month of April, I would like to share with you a few lines I have written:

"Welcome to April, that month so fair, with sunshine and showers and Spring in the air.

Welcome to April come rain, come shine, it is the most favourite month of mine."

Marie Cove.

SERVICES IN APRIL

ST. JOHN'S HALL, ANSLEY COMMON:

April 14th: Family Service. April 28th: Communion by Extension.

ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH—Services at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

- April 7: a.m. All Age Worship—Worship Team.
p.m. Holy Communion—Rev. Nick Clarke.
- April 14: a.m. Holy Communion—Bishop Anthony.
p.m. Evening Service—Bishop Anthony.
- April 21: a.m. All Age Worship—Worship Team.
p.m. Holy Communion—Rev. Edward Pogmore.
- April 28: a.m. Holy Communion—Rev. David Jameson.
p.m. Evening Service—Ven. Mark Bryant.

SENIOR CITIZENS: Morning Prayer 9.30 a.m. on April 16th

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY/CALENDAR

Ansley Common Fellowship: 1st and 3rd Monday.

Thursday 18th at 7.30 p.m. P.C.C. meeting in Village Church Hall.

Thursday 25th at 7.30 p.m. A.G.M. meeting. All residents of the parish are eligible to vote for the Church Wardens, but only those on the Church Electoral Roll can vote for the other Officers. It is at this meeting that the Church Accounts are presented and the reports of the various officers are given. This meeting is also in the Village Church Hall.

Thank you to all who gave to the Easter flowers.

What happens now ?

With no vicar we enter into a period known as interregnum. This time will last until a new vicar is inducted or licensed. This has to be for at least three months, but will probably be for much longer.

However, being without a vicar does not mean the life of the Church will cease. Officially it is the duty of the Church Wardens to ensure that the services and other work continues as normal.

As you can see in the diary section, full cover has been arranged for April (and beyond). It is at this time when the work of the Lay members of the Church comes to the fore, and everyone who wishes to help please offer, don't wait to be asked. There are many tasks that people can easily do to help (although not everything can be delegated). Please have a word with the Wardens—Moreen Freestone is

dealing with baptisms and Margaret Antill weddings. Funerals can be arranged with either.

Gill and Geoff have trained people and organised important tasks, but it will mean a lot more of the Wardens' time and they ask for both practical help and your prayers.

The day at Offa House was greatly enjoyed by all, but unfortunately it rained all day so we couldn't go for walks in the beautiful surroundings. However, the food was good, the talks were excellent and the fellowship was superb.

A date for your diary—On May 17th and 18th, 10.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m., there will be a Plant Sale in the Village Church Hall.

If anyone has a piece for the magazine or wishes us to tell people about a forthcoming event, please let me know well before the 3rd Thursday of the month, for inclusion in the following month's magazine.

Marie Cove.