

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 875

MAY 1998

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MAY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends,

"Ne'er cast a clout til May be out," they say; but there is some discussion as to whether that means until the month of May is over' or 'until the May blossom is out!' Either way, May seems to be an in-between month, standing between the cold of winter and early spring and the warmth of summer.

God's creation teaches us so much about Him, and we can learn from May that it's important to hold on to what is good in the past, but to let go of the things that are not helpful. It's also important to look forward to what God has for us in the future, so that we make progress, and don't just stay in the same place. If we do that, we stagnate!—and we don't grow as people or as Christians.

We're delighted that the new PCC, elected at the AGM last month, will continue to work with us in the practical and spiritual care of the churches and the parish. It's good to know that George Ponder and Margaret Antill also continue as committed and hard-working churchwardens. Our joint responsibility is defined as follows:

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the church building of St. Laurence, with the surrounding graveyard and car park. Also for the two church halls in Ansley Village and Ansley Common.

Elsewhere in the magazine are the 11 Commandments that describe the work and outlook of PCC members. Do pray for them in their responsibilities.

Looking forward to our summer programme, **on May 6th we start an Alpha course with a free meal in the Village Church Hall.** There are thousands of Alpha courses all over the country. They cover the essentials of the Christian faith, and are very successful in helping people to understand what Christianity is all about, perhaps for the first time. If you know of anyone who perhaps has doubts about it, and who would be interested in asking the questions they have and discussing the subject, then come along at 7.30 p.m. and hear what it's all about. Maybe you've been a believer for a long time, but would like to have a 'refresher course' if so then Alpha is for you. It is informal and all questions are welcomed. And it's free!

May God enrich us by all that He has done in the past, and open our hearts and minds to what He wants for us in the future.

Gill and Geoff.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

At St. John's:

May 10th and 24th—Family Service at 10.15 a.m.

At St. Laurence's:

May 3rd—10.30 a.m. Family Service.

6.30 p.m. Traditional Holy Communion.

May 10th—10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Traditional Evensong.

May 17th—10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer.

6.30 p.m. ASB Holy Communion.

May 24th—10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

May 31st—10.30 a.m. Pentecost Praise.

6.30 p.m. Evening Service with Pentecost theme.

THURSDAYS IN MAY

May 7th at 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion (said) at St. John's.

May 13th at 7.45 p.m. Fellowship Group (Wednesday).

May 14th at 9.15 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Laurence.

May 21st at 9.15 a.m. Ascension Day. Morning Prayer at St. John's.

7.30 p.m. Ley Group service at Methodist Church, Old Arley.

May 28th at 7.45 p.m. Night Prayer (venue to be decided).

SATURDAY, 9th MAY — ADVENTURES IN PRAYER!

Didn't think prayer could be adventurous? Think again!—and come to a Study Day at Corley Village Hall 10.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Speakers: Revs Michael and Sharon Simpson, Diocesan Spirituality Advisers and team.

Cost: £3.50 to include drinks. Please bring a packed lunch.

Bookings to Gill Kimber. Please make cheques out to 'Coventry and Warwickshire Spirituality Group.'

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

On April 5th we welcomed Georgia Howard by baptism into the church family.

Our sympathies go to the families of those who have lost their loved ones recently:

Eveline Stanford of 60 St. Laurence Road, aged 79.

Lucy Clark of Cottage Farm, Birchley Heath, aged 86.

Mary Rees of Windsor Garage, Ansley, aged 87.

MORE NEWS FROM THE AGM AND PCC

It was decided to change the way the PCC is elected, in order to come into line with current practice. A third of the PCC is now elected to stand for 3 years, and a third for 2, and a third for one

year. All names were drawn out of a hat. This is not a way of persuading people to stand down! — anyone may stand again when their term of office is up.

The members of the PCC are as follows:

W. Ponder, M. Sutton, F. Priest, A. Richard, I. Richardson, J. Allton, A. Truelove, J. Wakeford-Davy, R. Hobbs, M. & G. Freestone, M. Oliver, D. Morley, D. Kealey, D. Cove, M. Kimberley.

G. Ponder and M. Antill were re-elected as Churchwardens.

D. Cove and G. Ponder as Deanery Synod reps for the next 3 years.

M. Sutton as Treasurer.

M. Oliver as Secretary.

Deputy Wardens: A. Truelove, J. Allton, D. Cove. These were also made sidespeople, as deputy wardens have no legal standing.

J. Wooliscroft and B. Lowe were thanked for the many years they had served on the PCC. They are now standing down.

In future, nominations for PCC members and other AGM elections are to be in writing 5 days before the AGM.

ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS FOR A PCC MEMBER

- 1—**To attend** church regularly.
- 2—**To pray** for all areas of the work of the church and all who serve in it.
- 3—**To live** a lifestyle that proclaims their "allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that is evil."
- 4—**To welcome** all newcomers into our services and also to encourage others to attend.
- 5—**To contribute** consistently to church funds according to their means, making appropriate use of the Covenant and Free Will Offering schemes.
- 6—**To serve** in practical ways in the ministry, mission and management of the church according to God's gift in them.
- 7—**To attend** meetings of the PCC regularly.
- 8—**To seek** in all PCC discussions and decisions to promote the Christian faith and the life of God's Kingdom in this parish.
- 9—**To speak** the truth openly in love in the PCC and having spoken, to be loyal to its decisions.
- 10—**To bring** to clergy and church wardens all criticisms and encouragements, both their own and those they hear.
- (11—**To assist** the church wardens in the selection of a new Rector).

ANSLEY 2000: "Nostalgia Evening" & Bring & Buy. Friday, 15th May, 7.30 p.m., Ansley Village Church Hall.

Plant Sale: Village Church Hall, 22nd and 23rd May, 10.00 a.m. till 3.00 p.m. Bedding Plants, Perennials, Vegetables, Tea, Coffee, Cakes.

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1st May, 1998

Dear Friends,

As the months speed by it reminds me of the famous lines "What is this life if full of care, we have no time to stop and stare." How true this is as in the hustle and bustle of life the daffodils, tulips and primroses come and go but did we find time to stop and look at their beauty, their colour, their perfection? It is the same with all aspects of life we don't see the beauty at the time—our lives are too busy to stop and take in God's world.

When I listen to the news I think what a catalogue of disasters and grief. Wouldn't it be great if the newscaster showed us the beautiful flower beds in Nuneaton or the lambs in the fields, as especially at this time of the year nature is at her best. We can see God's world starting to wake up with new life and although it is important we care about the dismal and tragic aspects of the world, perhaps a ray of hope and God's goodness to us would be refreshing. It may remind us of how much we have to say thank you for, and this inspired me to write the following poem called "God's Plan."

Sometimes I sit and wonder why tall oak trees reach nearly to
the sky
Why poplars stand so tall and straight, while honeysuckle winds
around the gate.
The skylark soars with song so sweet as if the heavens themselves
he'll meet.
Down on the ground the rabbits play, while scurrying mice go
on their way.
The bee joins in the flowers to woo, Even tiny ants have a job
to do.
I look around at this wondrous scene, What a beautiful creation
this has been!
So if you have the time every mortal man should sit and look
at God's glorious plan.

We should care for the world, as we did on April 10th when an agreement, a plan for peace, was agreed in Northern Ireland and you could almost hear a cheer of joy and relief go up throughout the Western world. In the midst of this joy let us pray that God will set his seal on this agreement and that men of peace will see the reward for their years of endeavour, so that once again the people of Northern Ireland can live in peace in their beautiful country, and find time to enjoy God's glorious plan.

God Bless,
Marie.