

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No, 911

MAY 2001

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MAY NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

On top of the world

Some of you will know that Gill and I have been on top of the world recently. Literally—we have been flying 7 miles high across the Atlantic to South America, and have spent two weeks there living in Quito, a city of two million people nearly two miles high—over 9,000 feet up.

We have also been on top of the world because we were there for our daughter's wedding. It went well. We liked Mauricio, and his family gave us a tremendous welcome.

Each morning while we were there I would go up on to the flat roof of our building and look out over the city, sprawled for fifteen miles along a high valley in the Andes, and I thought of the lessons people in the Bible learned on a roof top. Elisha's servant had a vision of the power of God's armies on a roof top. Four men let their sick friend down through a roof and saw Jesus' power to heal. Peter was also on a roof top when he caught a vision of how the church is for all races and conditions of people.

Our biggest problem while there was that Ecuador is Spanish speaking, and Gill and I have never learnt Spanish. We made a hasty attempt to learn a little, but when Hannah was not there to translate we did not always understand what people said.

What got us through was the love we received from Mauricio's family—a love that was prepared to cross national and language barriers. I shall never forget Mauricio's father giving me a bear hug after the wedding and saying one word—"familia"—you are family! It was full acceptance.

And that is a bit like the love of Jesus that Peter was learning about on his roof top. God is waiting to welcome all people of every race as his family. When he learned that lesson, he began to practice it immediately, and he was over the moon when he saw the Holy Spirit move in a Roman household. We need to learn that lesson that the love of Jesus is for everyone—and if we like Peter can begin to share it, then we also may see the Holy Spirit move in hearts and lives and we will like Peter be

On top of the world

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

St. Laurence

10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

6—a.m. All Age Worship,
p.m. Holy Communion.

13—a.m. Holy Communion,
p.m. Evensong.

20—a.m. All Age Worship,
p.m. Holy Communion.

27—a.m. Holy Communion,
p.m. Evensong.

St. John's — 10.30 a.m.

6—No Service.

13—All Age Worship.

20—No Service.

27—Holy Communion.

DIARY

9—Worship Team meet, 7.30 p.m.

15—Senior Citizens' Outing, 10.00 a.m.

15—Home Communion.

17—PCC at Village Church Hall, 7.45 p.m.

21—Archdeacon's Visitation at St. Paul's, Stockingford, 7.30 p.m.

24—Ascension Day Service at St. Wilfrid's, 7.30 p.m.

REGULAR EVENTS

Monday—LINKS Youth Group, Village Church Hall, 7.00 p.m.

Monday—Monday Group, Various homes, 7.00 p.m.

Tuesday—Senior Citizens, Village Church Hall, 10.00 a.m.

Tuesday—Ansley Youth Club, Village Church Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday—Bell Ringing, Ansley or Arley churches.

Wednesday—Wednesday Group, Various homes, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday—16-25 Group, St. John's Hall, 3.00 p.m.

Thursday—Youth Group, St. John's Hall, 7.00 p.m.

From the Parish Registers:

Last month we welcomed Rebekah and Charlotte Marshall into the church family through Baptism. Pray that they would grow in faith as they grow in years.

Our prayers are with the families of the following who died last month. Dennis Bailey (March 19th), Mrs. Mellor (April 1st aged 91) and Nadine Lucas (April 15th).

Thanks are due to the following:

Thanks to all those who made donations towards the Easter Flowers. They amounted to £125.50. The flowers cost £100 and the remainder was put towards the Flower Festival and General Flower Fund.

Thanks to those who turned up on Easter Saturday to decorate the church. The result was very beautiful and spring like.

Thanks to all those who gave towards farmers on Sunday, 18th March. The total was £88.30. The last two Sundays of April also had a retiring collection for Riding for the Disabled at Galley Common.

Thanks to Bill and Mandy for hosting the TEAR Fund coffee and video evening. This was an enjoyable evening and raised £160.

Thanks to the Senior Citizens who raised over £200 for the church hall roof at their coffee morning. Thanks to all who helped and supported.

The open church on March 24th raised £44 for the church yard fund on a cold and blustery day.

Following the AGM our PCC members now are:

G. Freestone, D. Morley, M. Oliver, F. Priest, M. Sutton, D. Kealey, J. Allton, A. Richardson, M. Watts, M. Kimberley, A. Truelove, I. Richardson, M. Knight, S. Pearson.

We thank Maureen Freestone and Margaret Antill for continuing as churchwardens, and Joyce Allton and Anthony Truelove as deputy wardens. Marcia Sutton continues as treasurer and Phil Rees as secretary.

Future Events

- **Alpha**—A new course is beginning this month on Monday evenings for Ansley and Arley at St. Wilfrid's vestry. **See the vicar for details.**
- **Lost for words**—Is a series of six evenings for our deanery on how to share our faith, I will be leading some of them, and you are invited to join me at Bedworth on six Tuesdays, **starting on May 8th.**
- **Making sense of Life**—Those of you who enjoyed **J. John at the Cathedral** last spring may like to think about who you could take along to five Wednesday evenings at the Cathedral with Nick Cuthbert **starting on June 13th.** Topics include making sense of money, relationships, suffering, the future and finally making sense of God. If you would like to help with stewarding or counselling, please see me.

EDITORIAL

May 2001

May always seems to be a very contrary month—beautiful for the flowers and trees, but it never knows what to do next. My mother had lots of sayings about May such as 'Marry in May, rue the day' and "Cast not a clout till May be out." Thinking of how changeable and unpredictable May is, it inspired me to write the following poem:

"What an appropriate name we have given to May. A month which just doesn't know the way,

It maybe sunshine, it maybe rain, maybe the frost will come back again.

A month when summer may come our way, or maybe put back until after May."

Have you seen the many slogans and signs that people put in their cars. It is hard enough for drivers to concentrate on the road, but now they have various notices on cars in front of them which may or may not mean anything. We saw one the other day, however, which made us laugh. It said "Be kind to your children because they will choose your nursing home." What a sobering thought!

As we wonder where all the rain is coming from, it made me remember the many, many years when we had a 'hosepipe ban' and how we used to grumble. Now we see rivers and reservoirs full to overflowing, whole communities cut off and it's as if we just can't strike the happy medium. Perhaps we wouldn't mind another hosepipe ban if we could have a long spell of dry weather with plenty of sunshine, but, on the other hand perhaps we would still grumble.

Have you noticed how pastimes and hobbies have changed over the years. The most popular pastimes now apart from television seem to be football and shopping which must be the number one national pastime, especially with women. It is strange how times and people change, because years ago we didn't have the choice of shops and goods to buy which made shopping enjoyable. We went shopping for food and only went to town for fruit, fish or essential items. We would go on the 8.30 a.m. bus and be back on the 10 o'clock bus, always stuck to the list and didn't have one carrier bag, only shopping bags. I can still remember the stalls—Moore's Pot Stall, Biffins who made scrumptious pork and stuffing batches, Clarkes fruit and vegetable stall (which is still in Nuneaton), Lees Fish Stall and of course Mr. Palladino with his ice cream cart. I suppose if there had been more choice and more money to spend we would perhaps have spent more time shopping, but sometimes 'window shopping' can be just as enjoyable as buying.

Let us hope the month of May gives us some settled weather with lots of warm sunshine.

Marie Cove.