

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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## MAY NEWSLETTER 2002

As May dawns once again and we look forward to sunny, longer days and the gardens bursting into life, we listen with anticipation for the cuckoo and eagerly visit bluebell woods to see the amazing carpets of blue. Someone told me the other day that his brother was born on 'Bluebell Sunday' which was the 12th May. I must admit I had never heard of this. We all know May 1st is famous as May Day when lads and lassies danced around the Maypole and we all looked forward later on in the month to Whitsun holiday when the Sunday Schools used to march through their local area. Having a sister and a son born on 29th May, we in our family remember that also as 'Oak Apple Day' when King Charles hid from the Roundheads in an Oak tree. I wonder how many more notable days there are in May.

When using the toothpaste recently I reflected on how tops, stoppers, etc., have changed. Nobody can be accused of leaving the top off the toothpaste as it is now attached. With bottles we have gone from glass stoppers, corks (although some wine bottles still have them), and now we have screw on tops, and tin openers could soon be obsolete as pull rings are used. I have always liked sardines on toast, but the little key which unfurled a metal strip drove me mad. I can hardly ever remember getting it completely open before it snapped off and I had to finish off with a tin opener. Well, now sardine tins have a pull ring which takes the top off completely. That's technology for you!

When you are young, you never think you are one day going to be old. Everyone over 40 is old, boring, doesn't know what it's like to be young—in other words on the scrap heap—we have all been through this, I wonder just at what stage in life an individual thinks they are old. God had a great knack for making some very old people feel young again. Abraham and Sarah hadn't any children but when they were very old God gave them a new direction in life and a son, Isaac. Moses led the children of Israel in the wilderness for 40 years, during which time God gave him strength for the task. Elizabeth was given a son (John the Baptist) in her later years. But, God also made young people feel valued. David was only a young boy when he killed Goliath, and God gave the greatest task and privilege of all—being the mother of his only Son, to Mary who was also very young. Whereas the disciples seemed to be not too young and not too old. What God seems to be telling us is that we are all needed, respected and loved by Him, no matter how young, old or in between and we all have our own special place in the scheme of Christian witness.

A quote by H. W. Asquith (1852-1928). Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life.

Marie Cove

If you require the services of a vicar, please have a word with Moreen Freestone who is dealing with baptisms and Margaret Antill weddings. Funerals can be arranged with either.



## **SERVICES IN MAY**

**ST. JOHN'S HALL, ANSLEY COMMON:** Services at 10.30 a.m.

May 12—Family Service and Sunday School.

May 26—Communion by Extension and Sunday School.

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

May 5—a.m. All Age Worship. Worship Team.  
p.m. Holy Communion. Nick Clarke.

May 12—a.m. Holy Communion. Rev. Yvonne Richmond.  
p.m. Evening Service. Rev. Gary Schofield.

May 19—a.m. All Age Worship. Worship Team.  
p.m. Holy Communion. Rev. Don Jones.

May 26—a.m. Holy Communion. John Law.  
p.m. Evening Service. Donald Parr.

Rogation Day 5th May when we pray especially for the crops of the fields, gardens and allotments, the village lift and all who work to bring us our food.

Thursday, 9th May is Ascension Day, Service 7.30 p.m. at St. Laurence joint with Arley.

The open church for the summer starts on May 18th, the day before Whit Sunday and on June 1st, and will be open each fortnight until the Flower Festival.

Whit Sunday, 19th May, the day when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. We shall be using our new red altar frontal, as is the colour set for that day.

We said our farewell to Gill and Geoff on Easter Sunday. We were able to present a cheque for £375.00 and also the book of comments which we had been circulating for the previous few weeks. Everyone was sorry to see them go, but as was said on the occasion, we know they go to do God's work in Romania and we send our prayers and best wishes with them.

LINKS YOUTH GROUP meets in Ansley Village Church Hall Monday 7.00-8.00 p.m., during term times. For our first meeting this term we took 20 youngsters to a taster golf session at Plough Hill. Fortunately nobody hit the pheasant that was providing a moving target. It was an enjoyable outing on a sunny evening. Our thanks to the parents who helped with transport. The group is open to 7-11 year olds. For information contact D. Kealey 024 7639 5089.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY/CALENDAR**

**Senior Citizens:** Monthly Service on Friday, 3rd May will be led by Donald and will commence at 9.30 a.m.

**Ansley Common Fellowship:** Monday 6th and 20th May.

**Wednesday Fellowship.** There will be no meetings in May but an advance notice is that there will be meetings on 12th and 26th June at 34 Nuthurst Crescent.

**Plant Sale:** This will take place on May 17th and 18th from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m., at Ansley Village Church Hall. A chance to buy bedding plants for tubs, borders and hanging baskets. Proceeds to Ansley Village Church Hall. The Allotment Association will also have a stall selling vegetables, preserves, vegetable plants, tomato plants, etc. Please come and support this very popular event. Refreshments also served.

**Bring and Buy Sale:** Saturday, 11th May, 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m., at St. John's Hall, Ansley Common. There will be a raffle and refreshments. All proceeds towards St. John's books.

Thank you to all who gave towards the Easter flowers, and those who came and made the Church look so very beautiful. The weather has been cool and many of the flowers lasted for three weeks.

We are now able to give the full amounts of monies donated in lieu of flowers at recent funerals: Alan Neale—£193.83 for the Fabric Fund; Winnie Ponder—£901.15 for the Building Fund. We have also received a donation from the family of David Howell Watkins of £90.00. We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to families and friends for their generosity.

**From the Parish Registers:**

The funeral of Mr. Norman Dewis, who many will remember from his time at The Boot, took place at Nuneaton Crematorium on 9th April. His family and friends came to a memorial service on Sunday, 14th April.

The ashes of Mrs. Drakely who was 92, who had died in Liverpool, were brought back to be buried in the family grave with those of her husband. These were interred on Saturday, 27th April. We extend our sympathy to both families.

The wedding of Matthew Webb and Samantha Rees took place on 13th April. We wish them every happiness in their new life together.

The Community Project have now finished decorating the inside of St. John's Hall and kitchen, and it is now like a ray of sunshine when you walk in. They also kindly put the curtains back up for us and cleaned inside and outside of the windows. Many thanks to all concerned and all those who put up with the inconvenience while the work was being undertaken.

**The Future:** Over the next few weeks the P.C.C. will be preparing a Parish Statement. This tells prospective clergy and others what Ansley as a parish and a church is like. It will also state what we see the type of ministry we foresee for the future. On June 5th the P.C.C. will have a meeting with all the people concerned with appointing a new vicar, and this statement will form a major part of the discussion. The preparation of this statement and the necessary meetings are important for the future of our Parish. Please remember the members of the P.C.C. in your prayers.

Below is a letter written by Gill Kimber, which Ansley P.C.C. thought you would like to read:

With change comes opportunity. We are also seeing signs of new life, and the challenge for the church now is to recognise these as signs of God's activity. As the interregnum begins, it is an opportunity for church members to put past issues behind them, to forgive past hurts and to support each other wholeheartedly. It is a challenge to put aside personal differences, to pull together and to allow your common faith in Christ to unite you. This will not only define what sort of person the new minister will be, but will also set the course for the future.

The church needs vision. It is not only necessary to raise the money and build the annexe—it is equally as important to know how to use the annexe, to God's glory and to reach out to people.

It is not only necessary to see new people in church—it is equally important to welcome them warmly instead of just talking to personal friends. They should be encouraged, involved in the life of the church, listened to and supported so that their faith will grow.

It is not only necessary to reach out to youngsters through the youth groups and Sunday School, but also to take seriously their home backgrounds and their need to know more about Jesus. Youth leaders in particular should be able to look to church members and the PCC for support and encouragement.

Pastoral care is also necessary and one of the gifts and strengths of this church, but it is important to remember that people's needs are spiritual as well as physical and emotional. Offering to pray with someone is a source of strength and peace.

As I leave Ansley I am grateful for the friends I have made here and the fellowship I have enjoyed, as together we have worked to enable God's kingdom to go forward in different ways. My prayer for Ansley as I leave is that you will grow in unity and mutual respect, in patience and tolerance, and in love. I pray that your care for other people will bear much fruit and create an open door for the Good News of Jesus Christ in people's lives. I pray that you will continue to look outwards to the needs of others in generosity of spirit. I pray that you will be united in a common vision of God's purposes for the future. And I pray that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ will be with you all.

Rev. Gill Kimber