

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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## MAY NEWSLETTER

Arley Rectory,  
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Dear Friends,

Believe it or not, it's only 18 months to the Millennium. Plans are already under way with the formation of the committee headed by Margaret Antill, and some of you have been to the enjoyable Nostalgia evenings. Look out for more events!

The media encourages us to think of the Millennium as one big party, but they seem to forget what the Millennium is about. The only reason we have one at all is because it is the Millennium of Christ—it will be 2000 years since He came to earth to save us.

Fanfare for a New Generation, whose trustees include Sir Cliff Richard and Steve Chalke, has challenged churches to reach out to more people for the Millennium. They have presented the churches with **Ten Welcoming Commandments**, and are asking us to consider how we match up to them.

As I read them, I am struck by the fact that although they are excellent, they need the co-operation of both church and community in order to work. Here they are:

### **The 10 Welcoming Commandments are:**

- We will make you welcome
- We will be family friendly (but families need to come!)
- We will make sure you can hear clearly (St. Laurence's has a PA system)
- We will be practical and relevant (we do try)
- We will help you explore answers to your deepest questions (but please come and ask us)
- We will offer you time to stop and think in a busy life
- We will help you make sense of the Bible and who Jesus is
- We will make sure your visit will be helpful but challenging (Christianity is about love and forgiveness, but it's also about following the way of the Cross)
- We will help you discover for yourself God's love, acceptance and forgiveness
- We will offer you the chance to make a new start.

We will do our best to fulfil all these commandments, but they will only work if people really do want time to stop and think, if they really do want to discover God's love, and if they really do want a new start. In this way church and community co-operate to help meet people's needs by meeting the Saviour, whose Millennium we celebrate soon.

Supposing Jesus were to come back in the year 2000 AD? Would we be ready for Him? It is the most serious question we can ask ourselves, and the church promises to help those who are looking for answers.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

In His love,

Gill and Geoff.

## **SUNDAYS IN JUNE**

**Theme: Mission—Then and Now**

### **At St. John's:**

14 and 28 June at 10.15: Family Service.

### **At St. Laurence's:**

Morning services are at 10.30 a.m. and evening services at 6.30 p.m.

7 June: a.m. Family Service.

p.m. Book of Common Prayer Communion.

14 June: a.m. ASB Communion.

p.m. Book of Common Prayer Evensong.

21 June: a.m. Morning Prayer.

p.m. ASB Communion.

28 June: a.m. ASB Communion.

p.m. ASB Evening Prayer.

## **MIDWEEK SERVICES**

Thursday, 4 June: 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. John's (said).

11 June: Shorter Morning Prayer at St. Laurence's.

18 June: Shorter Morning Prayer at St. John's.

25 June: 7.45 p.m. Night Prayer (venue to be decided).

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES IN JUNE**

**2-5 June: Summer School at Offa House.** The theme this year is 'Servant Leadership,' and consists of a varied programme of talks and workshops. Gill will be leading a workshop at 7.30 p.m. on 2nd June on 'Deacons—the Cinderella Ministry' with Roman Catholic and Methodist deacons. Brochure and booking forms for all sessions in church.

This is also the week of Spring Cleaning for St. Laurence—so bring your Marigolds and aprons! There is a lot to do and anyone with an hour to spare will be most welcome. The work needs to be finished by Friday at the latest—there is a wedding on Saturday. Please contact Margaret Antill on 01827 874520 if you are able to help.

The Alpha course continues each Wednesday in the church hall. The Away Day will be on Saturday, 13th June at the new church room in Mancetter. Details from Geoff.

4 June: 7.45 PCC in Village Church Hall.

6 June: 1.00 p.m. Our best wishes and congratulations to Will McGee and Rachel Bates on their wedding.

8 June: 7.45 p.m. Youth Leaders meet at 34 Nuthurst Crescent.

**9 June: Deanery Eucharist at Bramcote Barracks Chapel with Bishop Colin.** This was a lovely occasion last year and there was a good tea afterwards! All are welcome, but please give details to Gill to send to the Barracks to facilitate security arrangements.

This month we welcome Pam Stote, who is training for ministry on the West Midlands Training Course at Queen's College, Birmingham. Part of her training is to preach and lead a service once a term in the parish of her local tutor (Gill). I am sure you will support her and pray for her and her family.



Wednesday 10 and 24 June: Midweek Fellowship Group.

Saturday, 27 June and Saturday, 4 July. Mrs. Kathy Priddis, wife of Bishop Anthony, is a professional artist and is holding an exhibition of her work in the Crypt at Berkswell Church. I have seen her paintings and they are remarkable and well worth a visit. Cream teas will be available.

**Sat 27 June at 7.30 p.m. LINE DANCE FOR ALL THE FAMILY.**

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Christian Viewpoint invites you to a

**SATURDAY NIGHT  
LINE DANCE**

**at Arley Miners' Welfare Club**

(Ransom Road, New Arley)

**on Saturday, 27th June 7.30 till 10.00 p.m.**

Interval entertainment with

**The Cruppets Puppets**

Bar refreshments available

Admission: Adults £2, Children £1, O.A.P's £1.50

(No unaccompanied children)

Tickets from Joyce Allton, Barbara Lowe and Gill Kimber.

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**FROM THE REGISTERS**

Congratulations to Anthony Teagles and Gail Hawkes on their wedding 30th May.

We offer our prayers and sympathy to those who mourn the loss of Frances Nash, 32 Ansley Common, aged 82 years and Mary Terry of 8 Croft Mead, aged 78 years.

A lady, who wishes to remain anonymous, gave me the following from a magazine:

Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there I do not sleep,  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the gentle Autumn rain.  
When you waken in the morning's rush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night,  
Do not stand at my grave and cry  
I am not there, I did not die.

### CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CAKE BAKE

The annual sale of home-made cakes will take place this year on **Saturday, 20th June in Ansley Village Hall at 3.00 p.m.**

All donations of cakes and biscuits will be gratefully accepted at 33 Nuthurst Crescent or at the hall on the day. Please come and support this event to help those children who are less fortunate than our own. Thank you, Margaret Oliver, Telephone: 395674.

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### EDITORIAL

1st June, 1998

May seemed to be a busy and important month. It started with the Irish Peace Initiative and we saw many leaders pooling their resources to make sure it can work.

Then last week the Midlands hit world headlines as the World Leaders at the G8 Conference in Birmingham mixed with shoppers and local people. Even the weather was on its best behaviour.

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Have you ever noticed how the sunshine makes the English nicer, better tempered and happier. This was clear to see during the nice weather in May, when it was like living in a different world. Everywhere people were out enjoying the sunshine. We seem to hibernate during the winter months and cut ourselves off. The nights are dark so we close the curtains and forget there is a world outside, but let the nights get a bit lighter and the sun start to shine and everyone from the very young to the very old come alive.

Someone said to me last week "I have just come through the Village and I never realised how many children lived there." Well, they were always there but probably inside in the warm watching T.V, or playing computer games. Keep shining sun! It's lovely to see so many happy people.

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Has anyone got a largish piece of carpet they no longer need? We need this for St. John's Hall, both for use at the Children's Club and the Sunday Morning Services. If you can help please ring Dave or Marie on 394114.

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Would you like to contribute to the magazine in some way? Tell us about your organisations, interests, what's happening or has happened in the Parish. Perhaps you have a past event or memory to share. Thank you.