

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 888

JUNE 1999

Price 25p



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Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel.: (01203) 382902

JUNE NEWSLETTER

This month the letter is written by Pam Stote. Pam has been on placement with the parish of Exhall, but is here again in Ansley as part of her training for ordination on the West Midlands course. Pam has to write the newsletter, lead one service and preach at another this term.

22 Chetwode Close,
Allesley Park,
Coventry

Dear Friends,

I'm sure, like me, your heart has been touched by the plight of the refugees in Kosovo and you have helped the fund raising campaigns.

But how can we help those who constantly live in poverty? I heard the other day about someone called Justino Peck. He lives in a village called San Jose in Belize in Central America. He has some land to grow enough to eat, but needs money to pay for schooling and health care.

One day in the mid 1980's he and his neighbours were persuaded to grow cocoa by a big chocolate firm who promised them a good price. So he borrowed money to buy the trees and worked hard for several years whilst the trees matured. He picked, fermented and dried the crop and carried the sacks of beans the 2 hour trek to the road. A two hour bus journey brought him triumphantly to the warehouse.

Imagine his devastation when he was informed that the world price of cocoa had dropped and the factory would only give them half of what they were promised. It wasn't worth picking the pods for that price!

There is a happy ending for this story because a fair trade company came to the village and offered to buy all the cocoa that he could grow at above the market price for the next five years. Justino can now send his daughter to a secondary school.

But why should we be concerned with Justino's plight?

Jesus said that the two greatest laws were to love God and love our neighbours and he said that everyone is our neighbour. If we allow other people to be treated badly so that we can have cheap goods, then we must share in the blame for their condition.

But what can we do? Perhaps before we buy anything we should look for the special labels that tell us that the producer is concerned with fair trade and humane working conditions. If we all started to ask hard questions instead of going for the cheapest items, then shops will have to listen to us and we will be loving our neighbour.

Happy shopping!

Yours in the Lord,

Pam Stote

SERVICES FOR JUNE Theme for the month: Security and Risk
Family services at St. John's Hall will be on 13th and 27th June at 10.15 a.m.

At St. Laurence the services are at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

June 6—a.m. Family Service.
p.m. 1662 Holy Communion.

June 13—a.m. Holy Communion.
p.m. 1662 Evening Prayer.

June 20—a.m. Morning Prayer.
p.m. ASB Holy Communion.

June 27—a.m. Holy Communion.
p.m. 1662 Evening Prayer.

Mid-week services: Tuesday, 1st June 9.30 a.m. in St. John's Hall: Morning Prayer.

Tuesday, 15th June 9.30 a.m. Village Church Hall: Shorter Morning Prayer.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 2nd—Wednesday Fellowship meets at 7.45 p.m. and fortnightly, usually at 10 Nuthurst Crescent.

June 3rd & 4th: Holiday Club for 7-11 year olds in village hall from 10.00 a.m.-12 noon, followed by the new LINKS children's club in the hall every Monday 7.00-8.00 p.m. Subs 30p. More details from Rev. Gill Kimber or Diana Kealey (395089).

The church will be open on Saturday afternoon, June 5th 2.00-5.00 p.m. and every Saturday fortnightly.

June 7th: Monday group meets in Community Centre, Ansley Common and every Monday fortnightly.

June 24th: 7.30 p.m. PCC in Village church hall.

Please continue to remember in your prayers young people doing GCSE's, A-levels and college and university finals at this time.

FROM THE REGISTERS

On May 16th we welcomed Luke Emmett into the church family through baptism, and Brian and Lisa received God's blessing on their marriage. Congratulations to the whole family.

Our prayers and sympathy go to the family of Derek Morris, whose funeral took place on May 18th. Derek was 73 and lived in Plough Hill Road, and was interred in the family grave.

Thanks to Ray, Pauline and Dave for organising a very successful plant sale, and indeed to all who took part. A grand total of £291 was raised for hall funds.

At the AGM on April 29th, Margaret Antill and George Ponder were re-elected as churchwardens. The PCC Secretary is now Moreen Freestone, and Marcia Sutton, Treasurer. George Ponder and David Cove continue as Deanery Synod reps.

PCC members are as follows: W. Ponder, M. Sutton, F. Priest, A. Richardson, I. Richardson, J. Allton, A. Truelove, R. Hobbs, M. & G. Freestone, M. Oliver, D. Morley, D. Kealey, D. Cove, M. Kimberley, A. Watts. Thanks were expressed to Jean Wakeford-Davy, now standing down, particularly for her representation of Ansley Common.

PRAYER CHAINS

We now have two prayer chains, one during the day and one in the evening. Anyone may use them. If you would like to ask for prayer, please telephone: Bill & Mandy Watts 397654 during the day; Joyce Allton 01827 713016 during the evening.

They will then hand on the prayer request to the other members of the chain, who have all undertaken to pray as soon as they receive the request. Prayer chain requests will be confidential, if wished, to members of the chains.

**Don't sit there and worry and stare!
Get on the phone and ask for prayer!**

This month we have had two poems given for the magazine one about time and the other on how we should spend our time. The first one is from Margaret Knight sent to her late mother from a friend in Australia many years ago and the second from a lady in Ansley Village.

So swift the way—So short the day

In this fast moving world of turmoil and tension,
With problems and troubles so many to mention,
Our days are so crowded and our hours are so few,
There's so little time and so much to do,

We are pressured and pushed until we are dizzy.
There's never a minute we are not crazily busy.
And sometimes we wonder as we rush through the day
Does God really want us to hurry this way?

The more you give the more you get,
The more you laugh the less you fret,
The more you do unselfishly the more you live abundantly,
The more of everything you share, the more you'll always have to spare,

The more you love, the more you'll find
That life is good and friends are kind.
For only what we give away enriches us from day to day.

We would like to thank Ron Morewood and his workers for the splendid job they have done in St. John's Hall. The floor especially is something to be proud of and it is now a pleasure to open the door and see the shiny floor instead of dust and splinters. Thank you from us all.

Many thanks also to Michelle Wooding and Robert Cove for the donation of the Baby Belling and to Mrs. Vee Robinson for the Microwave, both for St. John's Hall. Grateful thanks—you have made our job much easier when we have social events.

EDITORIAL

June 1999

Every year I listen for the cuckoo and see how late or early it is. Last year I didn't hear it at all, but this year I heard it on May 3rd for the first time. It is like a clarion sounding the coming of summer, just like the bluebells, and this year must have been the best for many years, as anyone who went to Bentley Woods would have seen blanket after blanket of blue stretching as far as the eye could see. It was a beautiful sight and even driving along the roads beside the woods, the scent of the bluebells was wondrous.

When people rave about the scenery abroad, we can say this country takes a lot of beating as it must be one of the most beautiful in the world with the wild flowers, trees of every shade of green and lots of different birds, Nature has certainly smiled on this country of ours as although we grumble about the weather, we never have the extremes compared with other countries. We all get sick and tired of the rain, but we can see the results as the countryside turns ever greener. What's a bit of rain and mud when this is the final result?

It made me remember as someone was talking about Dinky Curlers—do you remember the wavers—those fierce metal things that clamped onto your hair and left it wavy? They were more like instruments of torture than beauty accessories. Then there were the Face Packs which set on your face and you must not smile. I still do this occasionally but dread anyone coming to the door as they would be scared at the sight. My sisters and I used to put face packs on nearly every Saturday afternoon before the dance in the evening and we would sit in our veranda just looking at each other. We even occasionally put one on our younger brother and then we would see who was the first to laugh. My Dad thought we were completely balmy, but I must admit it does make your face feel really clean.

I was thinking recently that Ansley Village must be almost record breaking as far as twins are concerned, as apart from the rest of the Village, there are 3 sets living in Nuthurst Crescent and 1 set who originally lived there but are now grown up. Now, we have gone one better as we can congratulate Warren Sperring (who is from the Lord Nelson), Lynne and son Joshua and their families on the birth of their triplets George, Harry and Joseph. We wish them all the very best, lots of joy, love and happiness and of course lots of energy and stamina.

Marie Cove.