

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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## JUNE NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

This week I have to attend a training day on child protection, which is compulsory for all clergy. Although I have four children of my own, and have had my house constantly full of them and their friends, and have always been involved in children's work, it is a sad reflection on our society that this training day is still considered necessary.

You will know that the Child Protection Act has changed behaviour. Although in theory youngsters are now safer, in practice it means that, when a child is crying, a teacher can no longer give that child a reassuring hug. It also means that some teachers have lost their jobs because they have been falsely accused of inappropriate behaviour. Whatever happened to common sense?

Like everyone else, I have always worried about my children being safe. But I am not sure that we have found the answer. What sort of society is it, where parents take the children to school in the car, and spend millions on their comfort and their leisure activities, but do not give them what they need most of all—time, attention, listening, love and discipline?

So many children have computers and televisions in their rooms now, and every other child seems to be glued to a mobile phone. But I heard recently of a boy whose mother had left his father, and was living elsewhere. She gave her son a mobile phone so he could keep in touch with her. One day she came and took it away. Why? Because he was bothering her with his phone calls.

Jesus made small children the centre of attention, and told us that we must become like them in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. He also reserved his sternest comments for those who harm children; that it would be better for them to have a millstone tied round their necks and for them to be thrown in the sea. His divine heart is angry when little ones are hurt, and we must do everything in our power to protect them. All children's and youth work in Annsley and Arley has to comply with the children Act.

But we must give our children more than protection, more than material things. We must give them the things which make them strong inwardly. We must teach them right from wrong, truth from lies, love from hate, kindness from cruelty. Most of all, we must teach them that there is a great God who loves them and a Saviour who died for them. We must teach them that it is possible to get to know God, who will be with them every step of the way and will guide their lives.

But we must also teach them to respect Him, to realise that one day we will all have to account to him for the way we live. We cannot afford to ignore Him, or take Him for granted, because it will not help us at all.

Let us live our lives remembering that God has a claim on us, and that He offers us His Spirit to live His way. And let us encourage our children and grandchildren to do the same. Then, perhaps, one day, child protection seminars will no longer be necessary.

In God's love,  
Gill and Geoff.



**SERVICES FOR JUNE** Theme: The Holy Spirit comes to help us  
There will be a special service for Pentecost at St. John's Hall on June 11th, and a Family Service on June 25th. Both services will be at 10.15 a.m.

Services at St. Laurence's are at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

June 4—am All-age worship.  
pm Traditional Holy Communion.

June 11—**PENTECOST SUNDAY: UNITED SERVICE AT ST. WILFRID'S 10.15 a.m. WITH ARCHDEACON IAN RUSSELL**  
(no morning service at St. Laurence's).  
pm Evensong.

June 18—am Morning Prayer.  
pm Holy Communion.

June 25—am Holy Communion.  
pm Evensong.

**Mid-week service:** 9.30 a.m. Shorter Morning Prayer in the Village Church Hall. All welcome.

**Please note: Home Communion will take place on WEDNESDAY, 14th JUNE—NOT TUESDAY.**

#### **JUNE EVENTS**

**Thursday, 1st June 7.30 p.m. We welcome our Methodist friends to a United Service at St. Laurence for Ascension Day.**

Monday, 5th June and every Monday at 7.00 p.m. LINKS children's club for 7-11 years olds in the Village Hall.

Every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. at the Cathedral: J. John continues his series of talks at the Cathedral.

Wednesday 7th and 21st June: Wednesday Fellowship.

Monday, 12th June 1.30 p.m. at the Rectory: Churchwards meet.  
7.30 p.m. Monday Fellowship meets at Ansley Common: also 26th June.

Wednesday, 14th June 7.30 p.m. at the Rectory: Standing Committee.  
Even more fun—**Saturday, 17th June CAR TREASURE HUNT.** Start at Joyce and Tony Allton's house, 'Wayside,' Birchley Heath 7.00-7.30 p.m. If you get all the clues, you will finish up in the right place: if not, you won't get a drink! £5 per car, for charity.

Tuesday, 20th June Bus to hear J. John. Pick up 6.00 p.m. St. John's Hall, 6.10 IZONS Croft, 6.20 Ansley Village Church Hall.

Wednesday, 28th June 2.00 p.m.: Prayer group meets.

#### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to John Collins and Samantha Bridges, whose wedding is on June 10th.

Also to Daniel Pryke and Joanne Dooley, and Jenny Goadby and Stephen Farmer, who marry on June 24th.

#### **THANK YOU**

- to Marcia Sutton and the Links Club, who helped her make the palm crosses this year;
- and thanks also to all those who contributed in any way to making the church look so beautiful for the Easter services;
- also to Dave Cove and his team for his very successful plant sales;

— and to the Social Committee, working overtime to provide an enjoyable Line Dance.

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Emily Sturgess, who reached the grand age of 90 recently!—also to Ruth Salmon, who is now 95.

Good news for them, not-so-good for us! Archdeacon Ian Russell and his wife Barbara have announced their retirement at the end of the year. We owe Ian much for his unfailing support, careful advice and pastoral insight, and we wish them both a happy retirement.

Members and helpers from Arley Stroke Club would like to thank all friends of Henry Truelove for their very generous donations in lieu of flowers on the occasion of his death earlier this year. Henry loved coming to the Club, and we miss him very much.

Coffee Morning: Wednesday, 14th June 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at 28 Nuthurst Crescent. Admission 50p, bring and buy sale and raffle. Everyone is welcome and this year this event will be in aid of Barnardo's giving children back their future. This is a very worthy cause as Barnardo's endeavour to give children and young people the long term support they need.

Pam Stote has now completed her placement in Ansley and I asked her to tell us more of her story.

Hi,

Gill asked me to write about my call, selection and training to be ordained. I suppose the story began when other people made the suggestion but I dismissed the idea until I felt God's call to train as a Reader. When retirement came I began to explore ordination as a possibility, went to see the Church Vocations Adviser and over a couple of years had several interviews and essays to write. I went on 2 CPAS vocations courses which were very helpful. I had an application form to fill in that required 4 referees and then met with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands several times, once with my husband. It was then off to the Bishop for another interview and he recommended that I went to selection conference. More application forms and 4 days of interviews, written tests and role play exercises. The Bishop decided I should train for 3 years on the West Midlands part time course which has been hard work with weekly lectures, essays, weekends away and residential weeks. Each year we have reports and interviews to decide whether we should continue and if I complete the course and survive a couple more interviews, I will be ordained and become a Non-Stipendary Curate at St. George's, Coventry in July. I will still be training during the first few years of my curacy although no essays to do, I hope! It does seem very rigorous, but I suppose it is important that the church is sure that we are really called by God for this task.

Pam Stote

Please pray for Pam as she prepares for ordination on 2nd July at the Cathedral.

In April the Sunday Express included in their Sunday paper a copy of their Newspaper from 25th April, 1900. It was amazing as things never seemed to have changed in 100 years. The front page was full of war, including the Boar War. There was a page of casualties which was very sad and in another country there was an outbreak of The Plague. We think we have it had during the present day but compared with this we are very lucky. I especially loved the advertisements, many of which still survive today, but the most eye-opening were the prices with pure wool socks for 1s.03/4p per pair and Shredded Wheat 7p per packet. We have, of course, to take into account that at this time there were 240 pence to the pound, and there is no comparison to the present day, taking into account the salaries. As I have been told 'It doesn't do to live in the past', but reading this old newspaper was pure enjoyment and an insight into everyday life at the beginning of the last century, and I have passed this on to my son to keep for his children.

We resolve every year not to buy so many seeds and plants, but every year we buy as many if not more than the previous year. It seems that flowers have a fascination for us, and we can always find a different variety we haven't got in our garden. I had always wanted a Wisteria which we duly set to climb up the front of the house, but after 7 years and no flowers we were ready to uproot it and throw it away. However, a neighbour kindly cut this down severely for us on two occasions and low and behold this year it is flowering. We also made the same promise about an apple tree and that also is full of blossom this year.

As I look at all the many flowers of varied colours, sizes and types, I wondered just how many names of flowers we know and if in fact we could name one for each letter of the alphabet, using only the everyday names. Perhaps when you have a minute to spare you might try this and see how far you get.

I can never resist mentioning the bluebells, which have been so beautiful again, but this year we were very surprised to see in a wood in Leicestershire, not only bluebells but pink and white bells. This fact was also mentioned on the T.V. 'Countryfile' programme.

Also on the radio it seems that the number of sparrows had drastically declined, but we still have quite a lot in a hedge in our garden. Let us hope they continue.

Some mottoes for June: 'Mist in May and heat in June bring all things into tune,' 'June damp and warm does the farmer no harm.'

Well, we shall have to wait and see, but let us enjoy the flowers, the trees, the birds and the sunshine as at this time of the year we see them at their very best.

Marie Cove.