

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

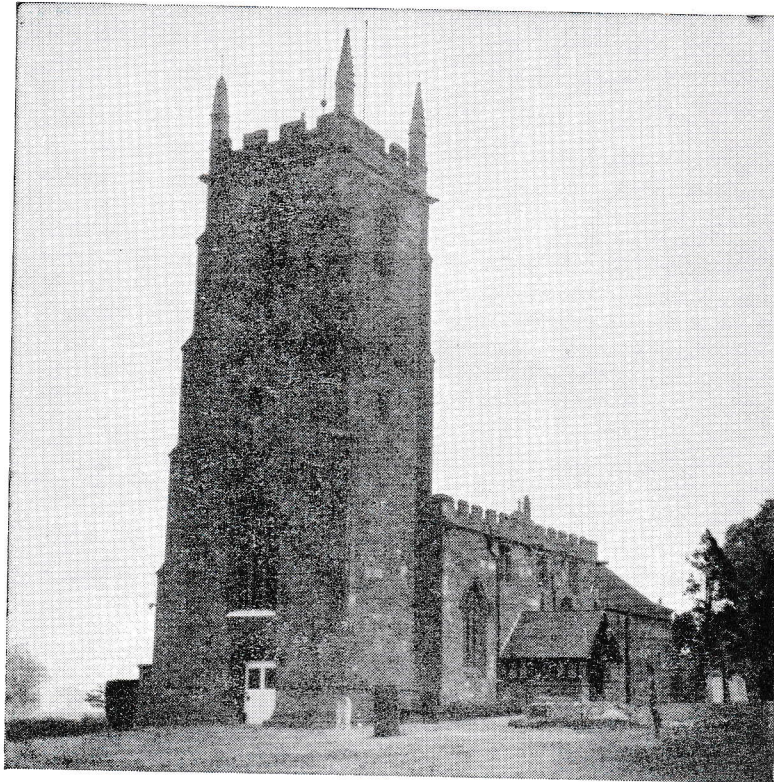
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**Priest in Charge:**

REV. GEOFF KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

**Parish Deacon (Half-time):**

REV. GILL KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

**Wardens:**

MARGARET ANTILL

Tel.: 01827 874520

MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel.: 024 7638 1833

**Deputy Wardens:**

JOYCE ALLTON

Tel.: 01827 713016

DAVID COVE

Tel.: 024 7639 4114

ANTHONY TRUELOVE

Tel.: 01676 541105

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Dear Friends,

### **Building His Church**

How was the first church built? Who were its members, and who was the first church leader? When was it begun? This month we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, the celebration of the founding of the first church in Jerusalem. All this month, we will follow the story of that first church in our readings from the book of Acts—the story of Peter, Paul, Stephen the first martyr, and Lydia. They built the church, not because they were strong or powerful, but because the Holy Spirit used them—and He is both strong and powerful.

We are hoping to do some building ourselves. We have a **new church annexe** on the drawing board, and on Saturday, June 9th we are going to have a Gift Day for church members to come and make gifts at the church towards it. We already have nearly half the money—which is very encouraging, but we still need over £30,000, which seems a very large amount. But if God is behind this project, then we will be able to achieve it. And to this end, we are going to have a time of prayer on the Friday evening from 6.00-9.00 p.m. in the church. The old saying is that “Seven prayer-less days make one weak,” and a church that does not pray together will never be strong.

The other building day is a week later—the **annual church fellowship day** on June 16th. Building bricks and mortar is less important than building our relationship with God and with one another, and Don and Anne Lindon, friends from Coventry are coming to lead us in this day. We hope that the church will be built strong in prayer and love.

And all of this comes out of that first Pentecost when the church began to be built. I was recently in London for a service in the language of those first Christians—Aramaic. On the site of the upper room in Jerusalem where the Holy Spirit first came, there is now a Syrian Orthodox Church, where worship continues to this day. Our diocese now has links with that church—which is why I was at the Aramaic service.

The Christian church now has over a thousand million members world wide, all because the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost to start,

### **Building His Church**

**Thanks to the family of Ray Hobbes** who recently handed us a cheque for £745 from the sale of some of Ray's effects. The money is to be split between the new church hall roof and the church general fund.

**Riding for the disabled** have been struggling as a result of foot and mouth, and the church recently had a retiring collection for them which raised £72. Many thanks to all who gave.

**The recent Plant sale for the church hall roof** raised £210.60. Many thanks to Dave who organised it, and all who supported it. The total for the church hall roof now stands at £1373.



**SUNDAY SERVICES IN JUNE    Theme: The Holy Spirit comes**

Services at St. John's Hall, Ansley Common are on 10th and 24th June and begin at 10.30 a.m. There is a Sunday School—all children welcome.

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

**3 June—PENTECOST SUNDAY** am All Age Worship.  
pm Holy Communion.

10 June—am Holy Communion.  
pm Evensong.

17 June—am Morning Prayer.  
pm Holy Communion.

24 June—am Holy Communion by Extension (Geoff on Alpha Day).  
pm Evensong.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Saturdays fortnightly from 2nd June the church will be open from 2.00-5.00 p.m., with stewards on duty. The Ansley 2000 history display will be on show again.

3 June: We are delighted to welcome Sian Thompson for baptism, Bill and Peggy Roundtree's grand-daughter.

Monday 4 and 18 June: Ansley Common Fellowship.

Wednesday 6 June 3.00 p.m. Prayer for the church and the world at Joyce's house, 'Wayside,' Birchley Heath.

This month we launch our fund raising campaign for the new church annexe.

**FRIDAY, 8 JUNE 6.00-9.00 p.m. CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER. SEE FURTHER DETAILS.**

**SATURDAY, 9 JUNE GIFT DAY TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE NEW CHURCH ANNEXE.**

**SUNDAY, 10 JUNE SPECIAL SERVICES; CASH COLLECTIONS TO CHURCH ANNEXE FUND.**

If you have any ideas for fund raising, please let us know!

Also on 9 June we congratulate Adam Harper and Lisa Harrison on their marriage.

11 June 2.00 p.m. Building Committee at the Rectory.

Wednesdays 13 and 27 June: Fellowship group at 10 Nuthurst Crescent.

**SATURDAY, 16 JUNE—ANNUAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP DAY.**

This will take place in the village hall, with speakers Don and Ann Lindon. They head up the Community of the Cross of Nails in this country, and the theme for the day will be '**A LOVING COMMUNITY.**' Tickets are £3.50 and include a home-made lunch. They may be obtained from church members, or from church after services. Book early for this very popular event!

Tuesday, 19 June 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer for Senior Citizens followed by Home Communion

Friday, 22 June 10.00-12 noon: Marie is hosting a **coffee morning** to raise funds for the mission our church supports, **Youth for Christ**. This mission does a remarkable job with teenagers, bringing them to faith and supporting them. There will also be a bring and buy and a raffle at 28 Nuthurst Crescent.

Saturday, 23 June: Margaret Oliver's ever-popular **Great Cake Bake** to raise money for **Spurgeon's Child Care**, who do great work with needy children all around the country.

At the Cathedral 9.30-12.30 there will be a training day on Kaduna for parish international reps. Kaduna is a companion diocese with Coventry, and the Bishop of Kaduna will be speaking. The diocese is heavily involved in reconciliation work between Christians and Muslims in Kaduna.

Thursday, 28 June: PCC 7.45 p.m.

**On Friday, 8 June the church will be open for prayer from 6.00-9.00 p.m. At each half-hour there will be a short time of formal prayer. This is to ask God for his help in raising money for our new church annexe. Please pop in, if only for 10 minutes.**

Yes folks, all this fundraising! But don't forget that 'God loves a cheerful giver,' and that all we have belongs to him. So let's give some of it back to him!

#### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

Our prayers and sympathy go to the family of Albert Morris, who was 82 and lived at 121 Ansley Common.

Thanks to Dave, Marie and Jean who set to with a willing heart and did some spring-cleaning at St. John's. Much appreciated. Thanks also to Dave and his cohort for the plant sale, which raised the great total of over £200 for the church hall roof.

#### **SOME SAGE ADVICE**

— Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church!

— Give God what's right, not what's left.

— God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called.

— Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.

Congratulations to Arley Hurricanes who have won the 'Under 10 Cosmic League.' This is a great achievement and the whole club which has youngsters from Arley and Ansley is giving a great service. Thank you to Managers, helpers, parents, supporters and all the players of all ages.

Come and relive the 60's and 70's on 8th June, 7.00-9.00 p.m., at St. John's Hall, Ansley Common. Have a sing song and a dance. Bring a snack and a drink. Admission: £1. Also a Raffle. In aid of paint for inside and outside of Hall.

St. John's Tear Fund contribution for March and April amounted to £8.25.

A donation of £320 has been received towards the cost of the new roof at the Village Church Hall, Thank you, Moreen Freestone.

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## EDITORIAL

June 2001

In June, have you noticed, everything seems to get a new coat, as gardens are transformed into a riot of colour, coffee mornings, fetes, carnivals, weddings and all sorts of events burst forth and everyone at last feels they can safely wear their summer clothes. We always called it 'Flaming June' but for many years it has been showery, soggy and has certainly not lived up to its reputation. Perhaps this year we may be pleasantly surprised.

Have you used the new self-adhesive postage stamps. They are really good, especially as in an office there are so many stamps to moisten, or even lick, and they don't taste very nice. It is also very timely as it seems the perforations to rip off individual stamps are becoming more and more hit or miss. Well done the Post Office. We look forward to the day when all stamps are self-adhesive.

Do you remember the Smith's Crisps containing little blue salt bags? Well, they are back and did you know how those little blue bags began? Frank Smith sold Britain's first crisps to pubs in Cricklewood. He provided salt-cellars which vanished as fast as the crisps. The little blue twist of salt was his ingenious solution. By the way, they still taste delicious!

I purchased a really old, very large book (50p) which must have been published during the second world war as instructions are given for making an Air Raid Shelter. It is called 'The Complete Illustrated Household Encyclopaedia' and it is hilarious as it bears no resemblance whatsoever to life today. One of the articles is about 'Beauty' and recommends any lady with a pale skin should eat carrots, preferably young and tender, to be eaten every day, cut into thin slices and put in a brown bread sandwich. It also throws out the myth that apples shouldn't be eaten in the evening, as it recommends an apple before eating anything in the morning and another before going to bed, as this wards off blotches and all other forms of complexion blemishes. What a wonderful book—a tonic in itself to read.

Marie Cove.