

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

Warden & Lay Chairman of P.C.C.:

GEORGE PONDER

Tel.: 392401

Warden:

MARGARET ANTILL

Tel.: 01827 874520

Deputy Wardens:

JOYCE ALLTON

Tel.: 01827 713016

DAVID COVE

Tel.: 394114

ANTHONY TRUELOVE

Tel.: 01676 541105

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

JULY NEWSLETTER

The Rectory
Old Arley
Coventry CV7 8RD

01676 540378

Dear Friends,

It's that time of year again, when brides walk down the aisle to meet nervous bridegrooms, parents dab away a tear and the best man worries about whether he's remembered the rings and will people laugh at his jokes?

And of course we have another royal wedding, with Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones getting married in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. Cynics might be tempted to say that it is the triumph of hope over experience, but we wish them well and our prayers are for a long and happy marriage for them.

Sadly marriages do break up, having a traumatic effect on the whole family. Children may often secretly blame themselves, while parents find it very painful. It is hard to know how to help.

As clergy we have a duty to prepare couples for Christian marriage, which, as the marriage service says, 'is a way of life that all should honour; and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly, or selfishly, but reverently, responsibly, and after serious thought.' I am pleased to say that most of the couples I see take marriage very seriously indeed: but marriage preparation is not a cure-all. In the end it is the responsibility of each couple to make the relationship work, and to decide if they want God to play a real part in helping them to do so.

For there is a real difference between marriage and **Christian marriage**. Christian marriage means that the couple are not just looking to each other; they are acknowledging that they are in the presence of God. God created marriage, so it has its best chance of success when He is allowed to play a real part in each couple's relationship. 'What does God want?' is the best question to ask when a quarrel has blown up, or a decision has to be taken. When worry and stress take their toll, they do less permanent damage when a couple is able to share their problems with God in prayer.

So there is good news; that the majority of marriages do succeed, that most couples do work through their difficulties, that they come out the other side and are stronger for it. Ripon Diocese has a problem at the moment; they have so many couples wanting to attend their special service for those celebrating 50 years of marriage, they can't get them all in the cathedral.

What a testimony that marriages can and do last for life,

Yours in God's love,
Gill and Geoff.

SERVICES FOR JULY Theme for the month: God and our feelings

Family services are held at **St. John's Hall**, Ansley Common on 11th and 25th July at 10.15 a.m.

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

July 4—a.m. Family Service.

p.m. Traditional Holy Communion.

July 11—a.m. Holy Communion.

p.m. Traditional Evensong.

July 18—a.m. Morning Prayer.

p.m. ASB Holy Communion.

July 25—a.m. Holy Communion.

p.m. Traditional Evensong.

Mid-Week Services

Tuesday, 6th July 9.30 a.m. at St. John's: Holy Communion, followed by home Communion.

Tuesday, 20th July 9.30 a.m. at the Village Church Hall: Shorter Morning Prayer with hymns.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturdays, 3rd and 17th, 2.00-5.00 p.m.: St. Laurence's church will be open and stewards on duty. There will be a wedding on 31st at 2.30 p.m., and the church will remain open afterwards.

Sunday, 4th July: Please remember in your prayers those who will be ordained deacon or priest today in Coventry Cathedral.

Monday, 5th July: 7.00-8.00 p.m. and every Monday: LINKS children's club for 7-11 year olds in the Village Church Hall. Further details from Diana Kealey (395089).

Also the Monday group meets in the community centre, Ansley Common at 7.00 p.m. today and fortnightly.

Saturday, 10th July: Great Cake Bake takes place in the Church Hall in aid of the Church of England Children's Society at 3.00 p.m.

Wednesday Fellowship meets 14th and 28th July, usually at 10 Nuthurst Crescent, at 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 21st July: Intercessory Prayer Group meets at 10 Nuthurst Crescent, at 1.00 p.m.

Holy Communion on Sunday morning 25th July will be celebrated by Revs. David and Jean Clarke. Our thanks to them, enabling Geoff to be in Arley and Gill at Ansley Common for baptisms.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Our prayers and sympathy go to Myra Pugh of 17 St. John's Road, Ansley Common and her family as they mourn the death of Frank at the age of 78.

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Good fun was had by all who attended the new LINKS holiday club over the June half-term. We watched videos about people who got to know Jesus, we did colouring and glueing, we made and decorated biscuits, we played indoor games and music and we agreed on good behaviour rules. Many thanks to all those who helped or offered to help in any way.

This club is now permanently on Monday evenings from 7.00-8.00 p.m. for youngsters aged 7-11 and the leadership team consists of Diana Kealey (team leader), Mark and Lynne Coulthwaite, Donald Parr, Rob Kimber, Sue Beasley and we look forward to welcoming

back Margaret Oliver when she has recovered, Help in starting a sports excellence programme is promised by Stacey Tinnion, a youth worker with Youth With a Mission. Our thanks to Coventry Diocese and Community Education for grants to enable this work to begin.

Congratulations to Donald Parr, who celebrated 25 years as a Lay Reader on 14th June. Thank you, Don, for your continuing help with the worship of Ansley and Arley.

Geoff Kimber gives thanks to God for a lively and rewarding time in Kent, where he headed up a team of men taking part in the Walk of a Thousand Men mission. Please pray for all those who heard the good news of Jesus, some for the first time, that the seed sown in their hearts will grow into a mature faith.

Our congratulations to Henry Truelove, who reached the age of 90 on 24th June. We have several nonagenarians in the parish—it must be something to do with Ansley air!

Many thanks to all who supported the Coffee Morning on 16th June. We had a glorious day, an enjoyable get-together and £100 was raised for the St. John's Ramp Fund. Thank you all.

Marie & David Cove.

Prize Bingo held at St. John's Hall on the 15th June raised £111 for the Ramp Fund. Well done!!

The Citizens Advice Bureau (financed by the National Lottery Charities Board) are doing a mobile outreach service on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month 11.00-12.00 at Ansley Common on land in front of Dennis Bailey Construction, Coleshill Road, and in Ansley Village on the Social Club Car Park, Birmingham Road 1.00-2.30 p.m. Their slogan is "Advice that makes the difference."

I was given the following for the magazine and thought it would be appreciated by many people:

WE ARE SURVIVORS

(For those born before 1945 — or thereabouts)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen food, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, frisbees and the Pill.

We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and the ball-point pen; before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes . . . and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought fast food was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea.

We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual cars and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting along with cousins and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1945 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, a 'stud' was something that

fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker to the bus depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day cigarette smoking was 'fashionable,' 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was a fond mother's lullaby. 'Eldorado' was an ice cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatments or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1945 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today . . . but —

By the grace of God — we have survived!

Hallelujah

EDITORIAL

1st July, 1999

Well, that's what we call "Flaming June"—thunder, lightning, torrential rain, cool evenings when you needed the heating on but eventually some sunshine. However, in spite of this the flowers are out, the roses are in bloom and everywhere looks fresh and green. Also the young people have finished their revision and exams for another year so they can relax until the results come out.

We have felt extremely happy this year to welcome Bullfinches into our garden. They are such colourful birds and we have not seen any for a long time. We also had a robin's nest in a sack of rubbish on the allotment. All the eggs have hatched and the chicks flown except one. Robins seem to follow us, as last year one nested in our shed. What a wonderful experience to see nature at first hand and at it's very best.

While on a coach travelling from Dover at the beginning of June it was marvellous to watch the sun set and the darkness start to cover the sky. It was such a wonderful sight, it's a shame we can't be a captive audience to watch this beautiful sight, but we always have other things to occupy us. I would certainly recommend watching the night sky gradually cover the sun and see the last rays of sunshine disappear into the gathering clouds. It was like something from a Michelangelo painting.

It is wonderful that our prayers have been answered and a peace agreed in Kosova. There are so many wars, so much disquiet and so many people who can't get on with their fellowmen. When we were in Euro Disney in June one of the experiences called "Small World" was really beautiful as you rode through all the different countries and peoples of the world. The music finished with the words "It's a small world after all" and it sent out a message of hope that people of every race, colour and creed should be able to live in harmony, as we did in the Theme Park as we rubbed shoulders with people of all nationalities, all united by the common bond of children. What a lovely thought!

As it says in the song "I'd like to see the world for once all standing hand in hand and hear them echo through the hills Oh peace throughout the land."

Marie Cove.