

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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JULY 2000

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JULY NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Love it or hate it, the football season is upon us with a vengeance. It is dominating our TV screens most nights, and the newspapers most days.

Have you ever noticed, though, how often it is the bad news which gets into the media? All that trouble in Charlerio, and English fans being told that the England team will be removed from future games if they can't behave. This threat seems to have induced some remarkably good behaviour, especially when the Turkish fans went on the rampage. We can behave when we have to.

We all know that the bad behaviour is only in the minority, and, if the press is to be believed, it is mainly in hooligans who have gone abroad with the express intention of causing trouble. Most football fans just want to enjoy the game.

It is the same in most of the things we do. The majority of people lead law-abiding lives, but the ones who don't hit the headlines. So we find ourselves reading about crime, violence, mistakes and weaknesses, day in and day out. If we are not careful, we begin to feel that the whole world is going to the dogs.

We need to remind ourselves sometimes that this is not the case. We may have to make a deliberate effort and realise that for every depressing story, there are at least a dozen encouragements. It's just that they are not usually considered newsworthy. This is as true of the Church as of any aspect of life. The media give the picture of a church in decline with a weak and divided leadership, but it is not the whole picture.

I am not pretending that the church has no problems. But I am saying that it is only a partial picture. The church is engaged in an enormous amount of good work, done by faithful and hard-working Christians, all over the world. God is working his purpose out through this vast and secret army which belongs to Him.

Let's have a **Half-Year Resolution**. For every bit of bad news, let's look for some good. Let us resolve to maintain a well-balanced view of the world, and not allow the media to fool us into believing that all is gloom and doom. After all, for every football hooligan, there are at least a hundred fans who enjoy the game as law-abiding citizens.

God is always positive, caring for us all, bringing good out of evil. As Christians, he calls us to reflect his character in our attitudes. Let us ask him to help us to be realistic, but also positive and wise.

In His Love,

Gill and Geoff.

SERVICES FOR JULY Theme: Messages

9th and 23rd July: Services at St. John's Hall, Ansley Common at 10.15 a.m.

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

July 2—am Family Service with Baptism.

pm Traditional Holy Communion.

July 9—am Holy Communion,

pm Evensong.

July 16—am Morning Prayer.

pm Holy Communion.

July 23—am Holy Communion,

pm Evensong.

July 30—am Informal Worship.

pm Evensong.

Mid-Week Service: Tuesday, 18th July 9.30 a.m.

Shorter Morning Prayer in Village Church Hall.

Home Communion: Tuesday, 4th July.

JULY EVENTS

July 1—The whole parish is invited to **ANSLEY 2000**, a Pageant and Gala Day at Hoar Park Craft Centre. Opening 3.00 p.m. by Lord Plumb. Bar, games, hog roast, raffle and displays, disco, singing and fireworks. Entry is free. Programmes £1. See you there.

July 4—The last of J John's talks in the Cathedral at 7.30 p.m.

July 5 and 19—Wednesday Fellowship: Usually at 34 Nuthurst Crescent at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 8 and 22 July: Church will be open 2-5 p.m.

July 10 and 24: 7.30 p.m. in St. John's Hall: Monday Fellowship.

July 12—at Bluecoat School: A roadshow on the new Church of England prayer book, to be titled 'Common Worship.'

July 13—7.30 p.m. in Village Church Hall: PCC.

July 16—Open Day at the Crematorium, with a memorial service at 3.00 p.m.

Monday, 17 July 7.00 p.m.: There will be a **DRAMA PRESENTATION** by the LINKS Children's Club in the village church hall. They have been working very hard on this. All are welcome—do come along and support them and show an interest in their efforts.

July 18-August 5—Millennium Mystery Plays in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral. Details from the Belgrade Theatre Box Office or the Cathedral Office.

July 26—2.00 p.m. Prayer Group meets. Venue to be announced.

FROM THE REGISTERS

We welcome Jack Hughes for baptism on July 2nd.

Congratulations to Susan Neale and Nicholas Morris on their wedding July 15th.

Our sympathy and prayers go to the families and friends of Jack Thurman, aged 91 of 14 Croft Mead; also of Violet Knight, aged 81 of 74 Ansley Common.

Congratulations also to Pam Stote, who will be ordained Deacon in the Cathedral on July 2nd.

Best wishes and prayers for Rev. John Philpott and his wife Margaret, as they leave Coton for John's new post as Chaplain in Prague.

Welcome to Rev. Nick Clarke, presently curate at Attleborough, soon to be Vicar of Corley and Fillongley.

Congratulations to Mrs. Mellor Senior, who recently reached the grand age of 91!

Thank you to Joyce Allton for all her hard work in putting together the Car Treasure Hunt. This was won by Barbara Lowe and her team for some careful detective work!

Welcome back to Rev. Geoff Kimber, who completes his study leave this month, and thank you to those priests who have been helping us out in the meantime, and to the churchwardens for their support.

COMMON WORSHIP

This will be the title of the new prayer book for the Church of England. It will be authorised for use from December 3rd, 2000 and replaces the Alternative Service Book. It will not replace the Book of Common Prayer, first used in 1662, and still much-loved, which will continue.

Why have another Prayer Book? Lots of reasons really. There has been a great change in worship in this country alone over the past 40 years, resulting in many different styles of service. We must remember also that the Church of England is a huge international church numbering millions of people worldwide, called the Anglican Communion. A new prayer book is a way of recognising that we are all different and have different needs in worship, while at the same time holding on to the good things of the Church of England. These include services which have a careful balance of worship, prayer, Scripture and teaching.

The new Common Worship prayer book will be published as a series of volumes, and also on a computer disk. Much of it will be very similar to services we have grown used to in the ASB. Although certain important elements will be 'common' to every service—hence the title 'Common Prayer'—there will be more flexibility and choice. The PCC will be considering the options during the autumn, with a view to choosing what is right for Ansley.

HOME MADE CAKE SALES. Please come along and support this event. Proceeds go to Spurgeon's Child Care, an organisation which cares for children all over the U.K. Date: Saturday, 15th July. Venue: Village Hall. Time: 3.00 p.m. Donations of cakes, biscuits, etc., would be welcome at 33 Nuthurst Crescent, Telephone: 7639 5674.

Margaret Oliver.

Extract from an article called 'Do something wonderful for seafarers' by Patrick Forbes. 'I've a very simple prayer,' said this very busy person: 'It's 'help'. 'I have a simple prayer, one of thanksgiving—Thank you, God, for seafarers. We'd be lost without them.'

For over 140 years The Missions to Seamen has cared for seafarers of every creed, colour and nationality. Earlier this year The Missions to Seamen became the Mission to Seafarers. Why change the name? First, we need to remember that there is just one mission, God's mission, each one of us is called to share the good news and secondly

there are many women working at sea and it matters that they do not feel excluded by our name. If you would like to know more about this Anglican Christian organisation please ask your local Mission to Seafarers or Donald Parr.

The Coffee Morning on June 14th was a success despite the rain. The amount raised was £85.50 for Barnados. Thank you to all who came or gave donations.
Marie & David Cove.

EDITORIAL

1st July, 2000

When the weather is wet and gloomy, this reflects the mood of people, but when the sun shines and the temperatures rise—what a change! Out come the shorts and T-shirts, there are people everywhere and it is as if not a ray of precious sun must be lost. Everyone is happier, children can go outside and play instead of brooding over televisions and computers, and everyday jobs seem less of a task. In fact the world seems a much better place, but the only drawback is that children do not want to go to bed.

Did you have any luck with the flower quiz? Well, I couldn't find a flower beginning with Y so I cheated and had Yucca and then I thought of Yarrow, but I couldn't find one for X.

So the official BBC song for EURO 200 Football was 'Jerusalem.' What a joy to hear so many singing this beautiful hymn which was written by William Blake who lived from 1757-1827. It has certainly stood the passage of time and what great, inspiring words. So now we have 'Abide with me' sung at the Cup Final, 'Jerusalem' for Euro 2000 and 'The Lord's Prayer' was No. 1 in the Pop Charts at the New Year. It would be nice if people stopped and listened to the words.

Have you ever thought how we take everyday things for granted, as if they have been there for ever? The Biro wasn't patented until 1945 and at the time of first appearing in the shops, it was quite expensive. Then instead of being just 'Biro' other manufacturers began to make these pens until today they are unbelievably cheap. I have a container with 25 pens for £1.49. However, I have no doubt that within a few weeks they will all have disappeared—where do they all go? I can never remember using a biro until it runs out, only in the office, so somewhere there must be a mountain of all sizes and patterns.

We don't seem to write so many letters as we used to, and so I thought the following, given to me by a lady in the Village, was very appropriate:

Do you write a letter, or do you telephone to ask about a loved one far away from home?

If you write a letter, full of all your news, it can be read and re-read with time to sit and muse.

If you use the phone to say 'Hello' and have a chat, news all over in a flash, no letter on the mat.

So won't you write a letter as a very special treat? It can be read so many times by one you rarely meet.

Perhaps this will spur us on to write that very overdue letter.

Marie Cove.