

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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JULY NEWSLETTER

A loving community

Dear Friends,

We have just enjoyed one of the most thought-provoking days I can remember. Don and Ann Lindon came from Allesley, where they head up the UK Communities of the Cross of Nails, and talked to us about their work and how they are involved in reconciliation, in all sorts of ways. We were challenged to discover that although we are ordinary Christians, we can make a real difference in some of the wrongdoing in our world today.

Just after the bombing of the Cathedral in the Second World War, the Provost went into the ruins and wrote **FATHER FORGIVE** on the wall behind the altar. The Provost did not write **FATHER FORGIVE THEM** - why? Maybe because we were carpet bombing Dresden at the same time, and we all need forgiving. Every Friday, all over the world, at noon, people get together for 5 minutes to say the simple Litany of Reconciliation. If you are ever in Coventry at that time you can join us in the Ruins.

Since then the Cathedral has been at the heart of reconciliation work all over the world, and I work in the International Office part-time, where I have the privilege of being part of this process in Israel, Iraq and Nigeria. The Cross of Nails communities started then as small groups of people dedicated to reconciliation, and this has grown to a world-wide organisation, committed to finding ways of understanding and living with each other instead of ways of harsh criticism, prejudice and intolerance.

Don and Ann gave us a sketch, in which Mercy, Peace, Truth and Justice came together at the end of a war, to try and make sense of what had happened. It showed us just how difficult reconciliation can be.

But that is no excuse for not trying. There is no excuse for continuing to judge other people without knowing anything about them. There is no excuse for taking sides—it just makes things worse.

To be a truly loving community, God calls us to follow in the costly and difficult way of His Son—to lay aside our prejudices, and to try and see things from the other person's point of view, although we may not agree.

Are we prepared to try? Because only then will we become a truly

Loving community.

In God's love,
Gill and Geoff

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY Theme: The story of Ezra—a priest with guts!

Services in St. John's Hall, Ansley Common are on 8th and 22nd July and begin at 10.30 a.m. There is a growing Sunday School—children are welcome, parents can stay with them—please contact Michelle Quick on 7639 5380 for more details.

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

July 1—a.m. Family Service.
p.m. Traditional Holy Communion.

Today is also Ordination Sunday, when Pam Stote, who completed a placement here in Ansley, will be priested in the Cathedral. Please pray for her and the other 14 ordinands.

July 8—a.m. Holy Communion by Extension.
p.m. Evensong.

July 15—a.m. Morning Prayer.
p.m. Holy Communion.

July 22—a.m. Holy Communion.
p.m. Evensong.

July 29—a.m. Songs of Praise.
p.m. Evensong.

Home Communion on Tuesday, 10th July.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Church will be open on Saturday afternoons, 14th and 28th July and the Ansley 2000 history display will be available.

Monday Fellowship meets at Ansley Common on 2nd and 16th July at 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday Fellowship meets at 10 Nuthurst Crescent on 11th July.

Wednesday, 25th July the Worship team meets, either at Gill's or at Don's at 7.30 p.m.

Also on 25th the Building Committee meets at 2.00 p.m.

LINKS children's club for 7-10 year olds takes place each Monday evening during term time in the village church hall from 7.00-8.00 p.m. Contact Diana Kealey 7639 5089.

Tuesday's young people's club meets in the village hall at 7.30 p.m.
Contact David Morley 01676 540298,

LOOK OUT for lots of exciting events organised by many different people in aid of the church annexe building fund! Please support as much as you can.

FROM THE REGISTERS

We record our sympathy for Kate Whittaker and her family on the sad loss of her husband Bert on 7th June,

CHURCH HALL ROOF AND TOILET

Repairs to these are going ahead. We hope by the autumn to have a new and watertight roof, and also a new disabled toilet.

THANKS

To all those who are doing such a fantastic job with fundraising:

- To Margaret Oliver for the Great Cake Bake for Spurgeon's Child Care,
- To Dave and Marie Cove for the coffee morning in aid of Youth for Christ, and also for the dance in St. John's to raise funds for paint for the hall,
- To the churchwardens for sterling work in all sorts of ways!
- And to the team whose hard work and commitment made possible a very enjoyable and thought-provoking Fellowship Day.

MORE SAGE ADVICE

—He who angers you, controls you.

—He who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.

—P R A Y is a four-letter word you can say anywhere!

TEAR FUND

The collection at St. Laurence for May was £12.03 and for June £12.31.

EDITORIAL

July 2001

July can seem an anti-climax after June when everyone seems to cram in fetes, carnivals, garden parties and they all seem to overlap each other. In July the neighbourhood is quieter as people go away on holiday, but despite this everyone, young and old love July as summer has finally arrived with frosts behind us, the exams are over, schools have broken up and we can enjoy the long light nights. Perhaps it is not an anti-climax after all, just different.

In these days of ever more labour saving devices, one innovation which could be of a great help to people who have arthritis in their hands is instead of having a keyboard and typing you speak and the computer prints it. At least there would be no need to worry about spelling or grammar, but it will probably be a long time before this becomes available to all.

I used to wonder where the old sayings about the weather came from e.g. 'If the oak buds before the ash we are in for a splash, but if the ash buds before the oak, we are in for a soak' and by the way, the ash did bud before the oak so we shall have to see if this is true. My 'Household Encyclopaedia' has lots of sayings about the weather and the same as my mother tells of how to forecast the weather by the way the fire burns. The book says the same—rain if a lot of soot falls down the chimney, frost when the flame is low and blue; fine weather when the smoke goes straight up. It would be hard now to see these signs with very few coal fires, so we will just have to rely on the weather forecasters.

Some riddles for you but only one answer:

What has no value until it is given away?

What cannot be begged, borrowed or stolen?

What costs nothing but gives much?

What can take but a moment, although the memory of it can last a lifetime?

The answer is: a smile, and do you know it takes 42 muscles to frown but only 28 to smile.

Marie Cove.