

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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## AUGUST NEWSLETTER

The Rectory  
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Dear Friends,

I am looking forward to my first **Ansley Flower Festival** at the end of this month. It runs from 6.00 p.m. on Friday, 28th August to 8.00 p.m. on Monday, 31st August, when we will hold a Finale in the church. People have been planning the details for months, and we hope to see you all there.

If you are free, we would be grateful for help with:

- trimming trees, sweeping paths and tidying up (Monday 17th August—please bring tools)
- putting up the marquee (Thursday 7.00 p.m.)
- cleaning the church (Friday 28th 4.00-6.00 p.m.)
- stewarding over the weekend (ring Diana on 395089)
- help with refreshments (Marcia 392488)
- contributions to the produce stall (Ray 395723)
- contributions of flowers or towards their cost (Margaret Antill)

The Festival will be a feast of flowers, fun and food, and a celebration of people's gifts and talents. Our theme this year is "**Food for Thought**," and each arrangement will reflect an aspect of the way that God has always provided for the needs of His people, all down the ages. It will be a feast for minds and spirits too.

We hope those of you who are going away on holiday this month will have a good time—and that the weather improves!

Yours in His love,  
Gill and Geoff.

## SERVICES FOR AUGUST

The theme for this month is **Stories Jesus Told**

### **At St. Laurence (at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.)**

August 2nd am Family Service.

pm 1662 Holy Communion with Revs. David and Jean Clark.

August 9th am ASB Holy Communion with Rev. Elizabeth Dyke.

pm 1662 Evensong led by Donald Parr.

August 16th am Morning Prayer.

pm ASB Holy Communion.

August 23rd am Holy Communion by Extension (Geoff has a baptism at St. Michael's).

pm ASB Evening Prayer.

### **August 30th FLOWER FESTIVAL**

**am Family Communion.**

**pm Festival Evensong with Canon John Philpott, Vicar of Coton and Rural Dean.**

### **At St. John's:**

Family Service on August 9th and 23rd.

### **MID WEEK SERVICES**

Tuesday, August 4th: Morning Prayer at St. John's Hall at 9.30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 18th: Morning Prayer in the Village Church Hall at 9.30 a.m. Followed by Senior Citizens' Club.

Tuesday afternoons at St. John's Hall, Ansley Common. A warm welcome awaits you at the Over 50's Club from 2.30-4.00 p.m.

### **FLOWER FESTIVAL EVENTS**

Friday, August 28th: Festival opens at 6.00 p.m.

7.00 p.m. Short informal worship.

The church will be open from 9.30 a.m. until dusk from Saturday until Monday evening.

Sunday services at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Monday 8.00 p.m. Finale.

### **From the Registers**

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Alan Lakin, whose funeral took place on July 6th. He was 54.

### **News from the PCC**

A new row of flat stone slabs will be put in the Cremation Garden, marking the places for each burial when the present row is complete. Families will then be able to have a 'wedge' placed on top, engraved according to diocesan regulations, and with a place to put a vase. Details from the clergy and from funeral directors. Wedges can also be placed on existing slabs.

The Explorers youth group which meets each Tuesday in St. John's Hall at 6.30 p.m. has grown and is flourishing, with a team of 5/6 leaders. All the youth groups in Ansley and Ansley Common now either conform to the Children Act or are coming into line.

We now have a new Family Service in line with General Synod regulations.

New accounting policies, in line with the Charities Act, were approved and are being implemented.

A number of gravestones are now in a dangerous condition, and we are trying to contact relatives in order to get them repaired. These are the graves of: Lilian Mellor, Nellie and George Baker, Susannah and Mary Jeffcoate, Bertha Deeming, Eliza Taberner, John Croydon, Mary and John Jenkinson, John Deeming, Harriet and Charles Allton, John and Mary Jeffcote, John and Mary Redfern, Raymond Dulson, Annie Burnell, Annie and George Spare, John Thornton. If you can help us please contact Margaret Antill on 01827 874520.

#### **Children's Society Cake Bake Sale**

Many thanks to all those who baked cakes for the sale and once again produced an amazing variety of goodies. Thanks to those who supported the sale both in the Church Hall and from the Car Boot in Nuthurst Crescent. A cheque for £155 has been sent to this worthy cause. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Margaret Oliver

#### **Coffee Day for Christian Aid Sudan Appeal—June 18th**

Despite the weather many people supported this and £210 was sent. This was an enjoyable day—thank you all, Marie and David Cove

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This lovely poem was given to me recently and it certainly makes you think. If I had to give it a title I would call it "Generosity."

The more you give  
The more you laugh  
The less you fret  
The more you do unselfishly  
The more you live abundantly  
The more of everything you share  
The more you'll always have to spare  
The more you love  
The more you'll find  
That life is good  
And friends are kind  
For only what we give away  
Enriches us from day to day.

## EDITORIAL

On June 27th the whole of Ansley Village seemed to come alive as people lined the pavements to watch the Carnival. The weather was diabolical but there was so much happiness as everyone waited to throw their coins onto the floats. It was a pleasure to see such support for the brave participants of all ages. Well done!!

We had two babies born at the end of June. Marie (nee Whitmore) and Paul Ward welcomed Alexander and Paula (nee Newcombe) and Paul Collett welcomed Daniel. It doesn't seem long ago that Marie and Paula regularly attended Sunday School. Congratulations and best wishes to both families.

As 50 years of the National Health Service were celebrated at the beginning of July, it is very hard for the younger generation to understand how momentous this was. What a relief to mothers and families and how different it was then. There were no charges at all and one day when we got home from school, my mother seemed unusually quiet. It transpired that after many years of toothache she had been and had every one of her teeth removed, now that she didn't have to pay. It was some time, however, before she could be fitted with dentures. The National Health Service must be the greatest piece of legislation ever passed in this country, as it brought health care and benefits to all in need. As Aneurin Bevan said "The most civilized achievement of modern government." We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mr. Ernest and Aneurin Bevan for their foresight, compassion and dedication to the welfare of all people.

Although the weather hasn't been brilliant, we have had an abundance of soft fruit this year, especially strawberries, gooseberries and raspberries. So, freezers will be full and pantries and cupboards replenished with delicious home made jam,

Marie Cove