

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 902

AUGUST 2000

Price 25p



Priest in Charge:

REV. GEOFF KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

Parish Deacon (Half-time):

REV. GILL KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel.: 01827 874520

Tel.: 024 7638 1833

Deputy Wardens:

JOYCE ALLTON
DAVID COVE
ANTHONY TRUELOVE

Tel.: 01827 713016

Tel.: 024 7639 4114

Tel.: 01676 541105

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel: (024) 7638 2902

AUGUST 2000

Dear Friends,

The theme for our Flower Festival this month is 'Time.' Most of us think of Time as something that happens in a straight line: the beginning of the line is when we are born, and the end of the line is when we die. Some of us may feel that the line of our lives is wobbly, rather than straight!

Celtic Christians, who had their own special spirituality, thought of time much more like the tides of the sea. They come in, reach full tide, then ebb away; before the whole cycle begins again.

The Midwife on the Hebridean islands liked a child to be born, if possible, on an incoming tide. As soon as possible the child would be dipped in the incoming water. It was a way of saying that she wanted his or her life to flow freely.

I grew up by the sea and I love it, in all its changes and moods. The incoming tide marks the beginning of things, says David Adam: the springtime of our lives. The world will flood us with newness each day, and we will be offered change and the challenge of change. Sometimes we feel that this is frightening, and it worries us. At such times, let us remember that each day God wants to come to us, in all our experiences, and that He wants to make all things new.

At the other end of the scale, when the tide is out, we can visit the shore. This is especially fun if you are with children, and can investigate the rock pools and see the little sea creatures, anemones and shimps and crabs, which you can't usually see when the tide is in. Some of the creatures are so small you wonder how they survive the buffeting of the sea. I never cease to be amazed at the limpets, clinging to the rocks whatever the weather.

Our faith may be small and weak, but our faith is in a great and mighty God. Such faith reminds us of the limpets: not large or strong, but attached to the solid rock of the Lord Jesus and his love. Life may ebb and flow, but our God remains constant in his care for us. He has given us Jesus to be our strength and our friend. Let us put our trust in Him, and remember that He is with us always, in all that happens to us.

Enjoy the flowers He has made, and say a prayer that you will grow stronger in your faith, as time goes on.

In God's love,
Gill and Geoff.

(David Adam is vicar on Holy Island and has written several books about Celtic Christianity, including 'Tides and Seasons.' They are usually stocked by Sycamore bookshop).

SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Theme: Rules for being at peace.

There will be **ONE SERVICE** at St. John's Hall this month. This will be on 13th August at 10.15 a.m. and will be **Holy Communion** by Extension. On 27th August we all join together at St. Laurence's to enjoy the Flower Festival at 10.30 a.m.

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

August 6—a.m. All-age worship,
p.m. Holy Communion.

August 13—a.m. Holy Communion,
p.m. Evensong.

August 20—a.m. Morning Prayer,
p.m. Holy Communion.

August 27—**FLOWER FESTIVAL**

a.m. Holy Communion.

p.m. Festival Evensong. Guest Preacher: Rev. Stanley Marriott.

Mid-week service: Tuesday, 15th August at 9.30 a.m. in the village church hall: Shorter Morning Prayer, All welcome.

HOME COMMUNIONS this month will be on Tuesday, 8th August.

AUGUST EVENTS

We wish everyone a very happy holiday, and if you are going away in this country, may the sun shine on you!

If you are a gardener, please come along and help to tidy the churchyard in preparation for the Flower Festival. Very few people turned up last year and it meant a great deal of work for those involved. Even if you can only spare an hour, it will be much appreciated. **Tidying starts on the week of MONDAY, 14th AUGUST. Please bring tools and enthusiasm! See Margaret Antill for more details.**

Tuesday, 22nd August at 2.00 p.m.: Prayer group meets.

August 23rd: LINKS youth leaders meet at 7.30 p.m.

The church will be open on Saturday, 5th August 2-5.00 p.m. and also on the 19th after the weddings.

Thursday, 24th August at 7.00 p.m.: **Help needed for putting up the marquee.**

Friday, 25th August: Please come along and help with cleaning the church in preparation for the Festival, from lunchtime.

Help is also needed with:

- Providing cakes and serving refreshments: see Marcia Sutton (7639 2488).
- Stewarding in church over the weekend: see Diana Kealey (7639 5089).
- Donating produce for the produce stall: see Dave Cove (7639 4114).

If you would like to make a donation, either of flowers or money for flowers, please contact Margaret Antill (01827 874520).

Tuesday, 29th August is Recovery Day!—followed by **cleaning up in the church on Wednesday, 30th** in the morning.

Let us pull all the stops out for this very special Millennium Flower Festival, which we do to the glory of God and as an enjoyable witness to His love and faithfulness.

Proceeds from the Festival will be divided between Nuneaton Hospital's League of Friends, the Acorn Children's Hospice at Selly Oak, and church funds.

'TIME'

Ansley Flower Festival 2000.

Opens for visitors from 6.00 p.m. on Friday, 25th August.

Short informal Dedication Service at 7.00 p.m.

Church open from 9.30 a.m. to dusk on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

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

Monday 8.00 p.m.: Flower Festival Finale in the church.

Refreshments will be available throughout the event.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Congratulations to Maria Holman and Wayne Jones, and Sarah Lincoln and Craig Ward, who are getting married this month.

Love and prayers to Margaret Knight and her family on the death of Bill, aged 60 from Nursery Road, Ansley Common,

Also to the Whordley family as they mourn Pam, who died at the age of 78, from 17 Birmingham Road.

To Bill Davies on the loss of Pearl, at the age of 75, from 202 Arley Lane.

And to the London family as they remember Beatrice, who died aged 67 from 75 St. Laurence Road.

I am sure you will all join me in saying a special **THANK YOU** to Margaret Antill and her team for the magnificent 'Ansley 2000' Pageant and Gala Day. Despite the wet start, everything went very well and there was particular interest in the history of Ansley, which Margaret had spent many hours putting together. It was a lovely occasion and a great opportunity for the community and church to get together and enjoy all the fun on offer. Congratulations Margaret, Stella Niblock, Marie Cove, Margaret Knight, Ann Drinkwater, Ginia Tennant, and Jean Wakeford-Davy. Grateful thanks from Margaret to all who supported, sponsored and helped in any way.

Many thanks from Margaret Oliver to all who baked cakes in aid of Spurgeons Child Care. The variety was amazing and a total so far of £122 has been raised.

Now that J John has completed his series of talks on the 10 Commandments, which on the last night drew an audience of over 3,000 people, let us pray that his inspiration will encourage us all to go on thinking about mission and drawing others to the love of the Lord Jesus.

Congratulations to the LINKS children's club and their leaders on a very enjoyable drama presentation. 'Storyteller' told modern versions of Bible stories, had the Prodigal Son joining the circus for a while, and the Prodigal Son's elder brother complaining about his return in a Rap! Refreshments were served and £27 made for Cancer Research. Special thanks to Charlie Turner and Neil Phipps from Coventry Youth for Christ, who came every week to work with the children.

It has been good to see Duncan and Helen Watts home safely from Kyrgyzstan, where they had a wonderful placement and learned a great deal. Mandy had some good news for them: she has been recommended by the Readers' Diocesan Selection Panel to train as a Reader, which will mean two years of study. Get better soon, Mandy.

Thank you to Malcolm Sutton for providing the striking blue gates at St. John's Hall, and for getting the wall built. Work on the frontage has had to come to a temporary halt as difficulties with the water pipe are solved.

We would like to give a gift to George Ponder for his years of service as churchwarden. Donations to churchwardens and Treasurer. Gill Kimber.

EDITORIAL

August 2000

We have been on holiday recently and it was lovely to see so much unspoilt countryside, wild flowers of numerous types, blue skies and golden beaches. No, we have not been abroad but to Wales, Nr. Tenby. It was breathtaking to be walking along the cliff tops and come upon amazing coves which looked like South Sea Islands, so clean, so unspoilt. I never realised just how beautiful Wales was.

A lady from Croft Mead, Ansley Village, gave us a cutting from The Nuneaton Observer written by Hugh Artus, Rector of Arley, dated 12th November, 1954, to the Editor and headed 'Cremation Fees.' This letter is comparing the fees for churchyard burial and cremation. An ordinary grave was 10s (old shillings) to the Minister, 5s. to the Clerk and 5s. to the Sexton—£1 in all. Plus £3.10 to £5 for the grave digger. The Rector points out this is reasonable as the grave digger is free-lance and may have to miss a shift from his regular work to carry out the task which not many are willing to undertake. This is compared to £4.4s. to £5.5s. for a non-inhabitant who died outside the city boundary, plus £4.42 for 2 doctors' certificates plus any extra. The Rector is comparing the modest fees for the church to the crematorium. This is only part of the letter which is an eye-opener compared to today, but it is 46 years ago.

Hearing everyone complain about today's high petrol prices you might find the following amusing: Newspaper 1950 'Stop Press' U.K. petrol prices have risen to 3/- a gallon, the highest rate since 1920. Wouldn't it be great to fill the car up at these prices.

An old saying: "If you should fall into a bed of nettles, you will never suffer from arthritis." Ouch!

Motto for August: "If the 24th August be fair and clear then hope for a prosperous Autumn that year."

Marie Cove.