

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 867

SEPTEMBER 1997

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FROM THE EDITOR

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1st September, 1997

Dear Friends,

The months and years seem to fly by but we all do love to look back and remember.

A vivid memory of my childhood was our local Vicar at Hartshill telling us about Gladys Aylward, the very little lady who against all odds—no finance, no church backing, no qualifications and the restrictions on working women at that time—got to China and did God's work.

Many of us will have seen her story in the film "The Inn of the Sixth Happiness" which tells how she took many, many children on a long arduous journey to safety.

For many, many years Gladys Aylward was my heroine, I wanted to be like her, to be a missionary and I wanted to work as she did with children, but God in His wisdom decided I wasn't meant to be a missionary but He did give me the privilege to work with many children, to have my own children and grandchildren and He built into my character a special love for all children.

This happens through many lives as we have dreams of great things, but God knows and sets our limitations. He knows who can swim the Channel or climb Everest, but He also knows and values the smaller achievements we are all capable of. He sees our smiles of welcome, our visits to the lonely, hears our prayers for the sick, the poor and for the world, and He hears and loves our hymns of praise which soar ever upward.

We all have so much to give back to God and He is happy to receive our contribution no matter how small. We can't all be heroes and heroines, but we all have our part to play in this life to the Glory of God.

God Bless,

Marie.

Answers to August Quiz: 1—Ant; 2—Labernum; 3—Monkshood;
4—Rhubard; 5—Foxglove.

September Quiz. Following the Flower Festival, all the answers are names of flowers.

- 1—Nobody wants to dance with her.
- 2—Japan's national flower.
- 3—Will she give you an answer?
- 4—Sounds like the inside of an old mattress.
- 5—Truthfulness.
- 6—Universe.
- 7—Do not deride a favourite fruit.
- 8—Is it still in the onion patch?

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 2nd

3.00 p.m. Mothers' Union, Harvest, Bring and Buy.

Sunday, September 7th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Sunday, September 14th

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Sunday, September 21st

10.30 a.m. Family Service,
6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Sunday, September 28th

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Sunday Bus Timetable for 6.30 p.m. Evening Service

Ansley Village turn 6.00 p.m., Ansley Common St. John's 6.20 p.m.
Return Journey from Parish Church 7.45 p.m.

Fellowship Meetings:

Wednesday, September 3rd and 17th, 8.00 p.m.

Until further notice St. John's services will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10.15 a.m. September services being on 14th and 28th.

St. John's, Ansley Common, are starting an "Over 50's Friendship Club" on Tuesday, 16th September, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Admission 50p. Please come along to St. John's Hall—everyone will be made welcome.

To book St. John's Hall, contact Pat Barnes, 69 Ansley Common.

We have more congratulations this month for Nursery Hill Primary School, Ansley Common, which was highly praised by Government Inspectors. We thank the Staff, Governors and children for the part they have played in making this report possible. Well done!

We say "Well Done" to Andrew Smith of Nuthurst Crescent, Ansley Village, whose hard work has resulted in a "Master of Science in Advanced Scientific Computation" from Liverpool University. Many congratulations.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms. We all enjoyed a lovely service on Sunday, August 3rd when Rev. John Law baptised two babies; Emily Rose Sutton of Park Cottages and Elliot Robert Norman of Thorncliff Way, Ansley Common. Rev. Law made this service special, not only for the families but for the whole congregation. We welcome Emily Rose and Elliot Robert into the church and the family of God.

Jesus called the children to Him and said "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18 v 16-17.

Holy Matrimony. We send good wishes to Victoria Anita Sheldon and David Ashley Chater (now Mr. and Mrs. Chater) who were married at Ansley Church on July 26th, May God bless you, give you great happiness and a lasting love.

Funerals. The funeral and burial took place on July 2nd of Elsie Emery, aged 80 years, of Milby Drive, but formerly a "Toon," sister of Edna and Alf and sadly mourned by her family and friends.

The funeral service followed by cremation took place on Friday, August 15th of Ivy Evans, aged 83 years. The church service was attended by her family and many friends who remembered her years (33) as Stewardess at Ansley Club with her late husband Eddy, many also knew her as a resident in the Croftmede Bungalows, Ansley Village, and many saw her when she regularly attended evensong at Ansley Church. She was a very talented and well loved lady and we remember her, along with her family and friends with great love and affection.

"Well done you good and faithful servant," Matthew 25 v 23.

Irene Lucy Plumb Goodwin (nee Pudge). The P.C.C. wishes to gratefully acknowledge the bequest of £100 from the will of Mrs. Irene Goodwin, who died last December, aged 84 years. Mrs. Goodwin, one of five children, was born at Ansley Common and the family lived at West View. She was a very staunch member of St. John's Church prior to her marriage at Ansley Parish Church.

She spent all her married life at Northampton and became a very active and loyal member of Abington Church. Her interest in Ansley Common never waned over the years and she regularly visited and attended the family graves here.

She is survived by one brother and numerous nieces and nephews.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

The news

By now you will have heard the news that I am to be your parish deacon, and Geoff your priest-in-charge. At the time of writing the date of our licensing is not confirmed, but may be in mid-October.

Who are we ?

You may be interested to know something more about us, apart from the fact that we are your next-door-neighbours in Arley, and already know many of you as our friends! We have been married for 26 years and have four children, three daughters and a son, aged 14-24 years old. We spent ten years in Nigeria as missionaries, and trained for ordination on our return to this country. Geoff has been rector in Arley for five years. We worked together, then I was asked to help out in Hartshill, and I finish there at the beginning of September.

How will it work ?

We are still working out with the Bishop of Warwick the details of how we will share ministry between the two of us. I have been asked to work part-time and in practical terms will be responsible for most of the pastoral work and the worship and development of church life and vision. Geoff will of course be doing his share of the Sunday services, especially the communion services, and also will have the legal responsibilities for finance, fabric and P.C.C.

Will it still be a separate parish ?

Although Geoff is going to have responsibilities in both Arley and Ansley, the two parishes will remain quite separate with their own churchwardens and PCC's. There is no suggestion of changing the status of either parish.

What is a parish deacon ?

I believe that as a deacon, I am called by God to work with church members in identifying their God-given gifts and using them in His service to offer love, care and the good news of Jesus to each other and to the community. I look forward to getting to know you, listening to your views, praying with you and discovering together God's loving purposes for Ansley.

Yours in his love,
Gill and Geoff.