

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

The Rectory
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Dear Friends,

In July 800 bishops from all over the world met at the University of East Anglia in Kent for the Lambeth Conference. This takes place every 10 years, and this year was a riot of colour as bishops from Africa, Asia and South America met with Western bishops to worship, pray and discuss. For the first time there was even a handful of women bishops.

What did they discuss? If you watched television or listened to the radio, you would be forgiven for thinking that they only had one thing on their minds—homosexuality. Our media had decided that it was the only issue of any interest to British Christians.

However, the Church of England newspaper ran a fax survey of some of the bishops, and discovered that nearly 75% rejected the ordination of practising homosexuals, while at the same time offering pastoral care to those who are gay. Some of the African bishops were fed up with the whole subject—it is not a problem for them. They were much more concerned about youth ministry.

In India youth ministry by the churches includes a deep commitment to alleviating the problems of child labour, child prostitution and street children. In Asia and part of Africa the church works with Aids victims and drug addicts, and struggles with ethnic violence and religious persecution, often by Muslims. Here in England churches work with child poverty, abuse, and homelessness.

Bishops listed as their main concerns poverty and injustice, war, economic crisis, natural disasters and mission and debt. Everywhere in the world the churches are involved with all these issues, doing whatever we can. We don't always succeed, and we don't always get it right. We can sometimes feel frustrated and disillusioned by the church.

When that happens, it is time to go back to basics, to return to the Founder of the church, Jesus Christ. The church, after all, is only made up of a bunch of sinners (and that includes bishops) who have one thing in common—we believe that Jesus died for what we have done wrong, and we can be forgiven. We can leave the past behind us, and as we experience his love for us, so we can begin to share it with others, especially those less fortunate than ourselves.

A church that believes and tries to practise this, run by bishops who do the same, is worth belonging to.

In God's love,
Gill and Geoff.

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

This month's theme: **God's power and human power**

At St. Laurence services are at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

6 September a.m. Family Service
p.m. 1662 Holy Communion

13 September a.m. ASB Holy Communion
p.m. 1662 Evensong

20 September a.m. Morning Prayer
p.m. ASB Holy Communion

27 September a.m. Holy Communion
p.m. Evening Prayer

The services at St. John's Hall are at 10.15 a.m.

13 and 27 September: Family Service

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Tuesday 8 September at 9.30 am: Said service of Holy Communion at St. John's Hall,

Tuesday 22 September at 9.30 am: Shorter Morning Prayer, Ansley Village Church Hall, Followed by Senior Citizens which meets every Tuesday at 10.00 am—all welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs. 10 September at 7.45 pm: PCC at St. John's Hall.

Saturday 19 September: Jane Kimberley's pupils will once again be giving a short concert in church.

Fellowship Group: Wednesday 30 September and 12 October.

Alpha/Fellowship Dinner: 16 September, The Cottage, Fillongley 7.30 pm,

A coffee evening in the Upper Room at St. Wilfrid's Church, Old Arley, will be held when our daughter Juliet will show slides and talk about her experiences this summer working in a children's home in Beirut with Tear Fund. All welcome! Date to be announced.

A KING SIZED THANK YOU to all those who worked so hard over the Flower Festival, making the church beautiful, welcoming and feeding people, organising things and cleaning up. A major undertaking, done not just for funds or for our own satisfaction, but for the glory of the King of Heaven.

From the Parish Register: We extend our sympathies to the families and friends of Tom Holland, Brenda Askew, Frances Louisa Smith and Nancy Horobin.

FRIEND OF A FRIEND . . .

. . . tells these stories of modern church life
that may (or may not) be true

Hours after Scotland's recent exit from the World Cup, a Church of Scotland minister who had gone to the tournament with some of the men from his congregation was leaving the stadium. As they were walking back to their car they saw a fellow Scot, dressed in a kilt and a Scotland tee shirt, lying in a gutter.

Taking pity on the wretched man, the minister said to his friends:

"Let's help him. It would be a good Christian service and it would take our minds off the tragic game."

His friends agreed with this sentiment and they picked the man up, asking him where he came from.

"Govan," he muttered through a haze of alcohol.

"Why, we're going to Glasgow ourselves," the minister said. "Let's put him in our care and take him home."

When they arrived back at Govan, they found the man's house and carried him to the door.

On ringing the bell, a lady came to the door. It was clearly the drunken man's mother.

"What's he doing here?" she asked. "He's supposed to be on his honeymoon in France."

A collection of stories like these is contained in **It's The Gospel Truth**, by Colin Blakely, and was published recently by Marshall Pickering. Price £5.99.

Here is a poser for you. Have you ever wondered where things disappear to? Someone was saying to me the other day that they can never find a teaspoon although they are always buying more. Somewhere there must be a mountain of pens, clothes pegs and it would seem teaspoons, to mention a few. We look for a pen but where can we find one? Clothes pegs just seem to vanish into thin air and households, especially with young children, have lots of knives, forks and tablespoons, but where have all the teaspoons gone? Does anyone have any more disappearing items or has anyone ever solved the mystery?

We have received a 'thank you' letter from Christian Aid for the cheque sent for Sudan, which says that they have a cease-fire in Bahrel Ghazal. Christian Aid have sent emergency food, seeds, shelter and fishing kits to regions in Southern Sudan. I think you will agree it is nice to know that the money we raise is being well spent.

Marie & Dave Cove

EDITORIAL

1st September, 1998

Well, the children will soon be returning to school after their summer holidays, although it doesn't seem five minutes since they were breaking up for seven weeks holiday. Exam results have been received and another school year will soon be starting. It reminds us all of that feeling of trepidation when we first started to school or when we moved up to another class or another school. We had to get used to new teachers, but what an experience, what an adventure, especially for the 5 year olds as they put on their new school uniforms and now at last they have left playschool and nursery behind and they are real schoolchildren.

September also reminds us that Autumn is on our doorsteps. It is such a beautiful month with the leaves turning to many shades of gold, the trees filled with nuts and blackberries and the harvest moon so large and bright lighting up the night sky. When people talk of beautiful scenery in other parts of this country or abroad, we have no need to travel to see glorious scenes in lands, fields and hedgerow. All around us we have beautiful sights and they are aptly called "The leafy lanes of Warwickshire." It is a shame we don't see so many fields of golden corn but September is still a beautiful time—a month to enjoy and relish.

With the terrible world news of bombs, famine, fighting and terrible suffering, God must be very sad as He watches His world and people destroying themselves and their surroundings. It is always the weakest in society who are the losers—the children, the poor, the elderly or the handicapped. This world values only the perfect, the rich, the successful and the first consideration is to preserve resources which bring wealth. Well, the resources which God originally gave us are more precious than gold—the fresh air, clear life giving water, the good earth, seeds, plants, wildlife—everything we need or might ever need for life. All He asked was for us to be caretakers of His World, loving custodians of His children and carers of those who need us. It doesn't seem too much to ask in return for His love and care. As the hymn we sang at school says—"God who made the earth, the air, the sky, the sea. Who gave the light it's birth, Careth for me." Well all God asks in return is that we care too.

Marie Cove.