

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends,

A famous American businessman once said that on Sunday, God came first, his family second and finally his business. Then from Monday to Saturday, the order was reversed!

It's so easy to try and put God into a box, to confine him to certain areas of our lives, and to live some of the time as if he wasn't relevant. But God created us, and therefore knows us intimately. An inventor is the best person to know how his invention works. A good mother knows the meaning of her baby's looks and noises, and God knows us even better than that.

Jesus taught us that he is interested in every area of our lives, however insignificant. He is interested not only in the serious things, but also in the daft and funny things. So it makes sense to enjoy life with him, rather than without him.

Yet when God gives us a gift, he also gives us the responsibility to use it in the right way. We are so well off for food, drink and money compared with many people in the world—and yet we are not always wise in the way we use our blessings. There are those who are ill with overeating, and those who starve themselves. A drink with friends can be relaxing, but not if it becomes drunkenness. And although many people are generous with their money, there are those who spend what they cannot afford on different types of gambling, hoping for a big win. When we misuse God's gifts, they have a habit of going bad on us.

Using God's gifts well means being responsible. We live in communities, and what we say and do have consequences for those around us. So although we are free to choose how we live and what we do with God's gifts, our freedom will sometimes be limited for the sake of others.

Our society often puts personal freedom ahead of responsibility to others. But for the Christian, this can never be an option. We must be careful that our freedom does not become a problem for others. We are not free to do just what we like. Sometimes the price of following Christ will mean that we stop doing something that is perfectly acceptable, because it is creating a problem for someone else.

Self-discipline doesn't always seem much fun. But it's a small price to pay for all that blessings God has given us—and a way of saying thank-you for life, love, and a beautiful world.

Enjoy this autumn with him,

In his love,
Gill and Geoff.

Theme: Jesus and healing

Services at St. John's Hall are on 12th and 26th September at 10.15 a.m.

At St. Laurence's church the services take place at 10,30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

September 5th—a.m. Family Service,
p.m. Traditional Holy Communion.

September 12th—a.m. Holy Communion.
p.m. Traditional Evensong.

September 19th—a.m. Morning Prayer.
p.m. ASB Holy Communion.

September 26th—a.m. Holy Communion.
p.m. Traditional Evensong.

Mid-week services: Tuesday, 7th September at 9.30 a.m., quiet Holy Communion in St. John's Hall, followed by home communions.

Tuesday, 21st September: Morning Prayer in the village church hall, followed by Senior Citizens.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 1st: All hands on deck to clear up St. Laurence's after the Flower Festival: from 10,00 a.m. please,

Saturday 4th: Congratulations to Mark Webster and Heidi Williams, and Frances Roberts and Ian Hollick, who are getting married this afternoon,

Tuesday 7th: Churchwardens meet at the Rectory at 1.30 p.m.

Saturday 11th: **The church will be open**, stewards on duty and refreshments available.

Monday 13th and every Monday fortnightly: **Monday group meets** in the community centre, Ansley Common, Theme: What's the Old Testament all about?

Also this is the Monday when **LINKS** club for 7-11 year olds starts back at 7.00 p.m. in the village hall.

Tuesday 14th: Line dance with refreshments in St. John's Hall. An occasion for all ages to come and enjoy themselves! There will also be the chance to raise money for the ramp, Adults £1.50, Children £1. 7.00 p.m. till 9.00 p.m.

Thursday 16th: 7.45 p.m. **PCC** meets at St. John's.

Wednesday 22nd: **Wednesday fellowship** meets at 7.30 p.m. at 10 Nuthurst Crescent, and every other Wednesday.

Saturday 25th: Congratulations to Jackie Stubbs and Kevin Wootton on their marriage. The ceremony will take place at 2.00 p.m., followed by a rehearsal for tomorrow's wedding at around 3.00 p.m. After that the church will remain open until 5.00 p.m.

Sunday 26th: More congratulations, this time to Paula Davies and John (Julian) Maidens on their wedding day.

LOOKING AHEAD

We're in for another treat on Saturday, 2nd October when Jane Kimberley's music students come to the church and give a concert. Don't miss it!

On Sunday, 3rd October the Sunday School celebrates its silver anniversary—25 years since it began. There will be a celebration service in the morning with guest speaker Rev. Martin Green, who is the diocesan children's officer.

TWO PLEAS FOR HELP

- 1—The Senior Citizens in Ansley Village need voluntary help to push wheelchairs when the group goes out and about. The next trip is on October 12th to Hatton. If you can lend a hand—or preferably two—please contact Margaret Antill on 01827 874520.
- 2—We urgently need help with the flowers in church. If you can give practical assistance, or a regular donation, or donations to commemorate a special event in your life, please contact Margaret Kimberley on 01203 384680.

FIVE THANK YOU'S

- 1—Once more it is our pleasure to thank the small army of people whose dedication, creativity and hard work helped to make the church beautiful and many visitors welcomed and refreshed over the Flower Festival. It is never a good idea to single out individuals, but I'm sure you will all agree that a special vote of thanks is well-deserved by Margaret Antill for masterminding the whole event, and by her and Margaret Kimberley for the Festival Finale.
- 2—Grateful thanks indeed from Arley to all those at Ansley, and the Ansley PCC, who have donated £296.22 to St. Michael's heating fund.
- 3—Thanks again to that hard-working lady Margaret K for organising a very successful Sponsored Hymn-Sing to raise money for the new notice boards at the church. See further details elsewhere in magazine.
- 4—And thank you to Margaret Oliver, for her constant work as PCC Secretary. Margaret stood down at the AGM, but we are glad she is continuing as a member of the PCC.
- 5—Thank you also to Marie and Jennifer, who have both held fund-raising coffee mornings for the ramp at St. John's.

Wedding congratulations from all the church family to Duncan and Helen Watts, who were married in Birmingham on August 14th. We pray God's richest blessings on them for the future, as they embark on training for missionary work.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Our sympathy and prayers go to Phyllis Reader and her family on the loss of Bill at the age of 91. They lived in Ansley for many years before moving to a bungalow in Attleborough.

Also to Melvyn Lyon and his son Paul from 25 Nuthurst Crescent on the sad loss of Ruth at the age of 53.

The Coffee Morning on August 5th raised £65 for the St. John's Ramp Fund. Thank you to all who supported this event.

PLEASE NOTE: Change of date for Coffee Morning at Wood Barn Farm which is now September 23rd, 10.00 a.m. till 1.00 p.m. Also in aid of the St. John's Ramp Fund,

In order to raise the necessary funds to cover the cost of the new church notice boards, a Sponsored Hymn Sing took place on Saturday, 31st July, 35 people gathered for a "half hour sing," followed by light refreshments and a chat. It proved to be a pleasant occasion and so far £300.10 has been donated. Our thanks go to all who contributed in **any** way. Your continued help is much appreciated.

Margaret Kimberley.

EDITORIAL

September 1st, 1999

It doesn't seem possible that the Flower Festival is upon us, summer holidays have come and gone and once again school children and students are starting another new year in their education. We now begin beautiful Autumn when nature once again is decked in every shade of gold and brown. The leaves started to fall very early this year and the nights are already starting to darken and there is a chill in the air.

I suppose many memories of summer will linger on and children will remember those many hot sunny days when they played out all day, and when this year many adults wished it could be a little cooler, but at least this year we knew summer was with us as we enjoyed those long hot sunny days.

Perhaps the most lasting memory will be the Eclipse. This was our only chance of witnessing the total eclipse in this part of the world (even if the pictures were only really spectacular on T.V.) as a total eclipse will not be visible in England for another 91 years. I think my lasting memory will be how the temperature dropped so suddenly. It was frightening as we rely on the sun in all parts of our lives for life giving heat and light and just for a very brief time we saw the sun obliterated, and we realised the power of the sun.

We must congratulate The Old School at Church End on the glowing report they have received from Ofsted, which praised the skills of the teachers in teaching pupils with difficulties and in the general teaching of their subjects. This school must hold memories for generations who attended there in the past; whose childhood friendships were formed there and in many cases still go on and also whose first years of learning gave them a firm foundation for their future lives. It is comforting that the little school at Church End is still keeping up the traditions of good learning and excellence.

Marie Cove.