

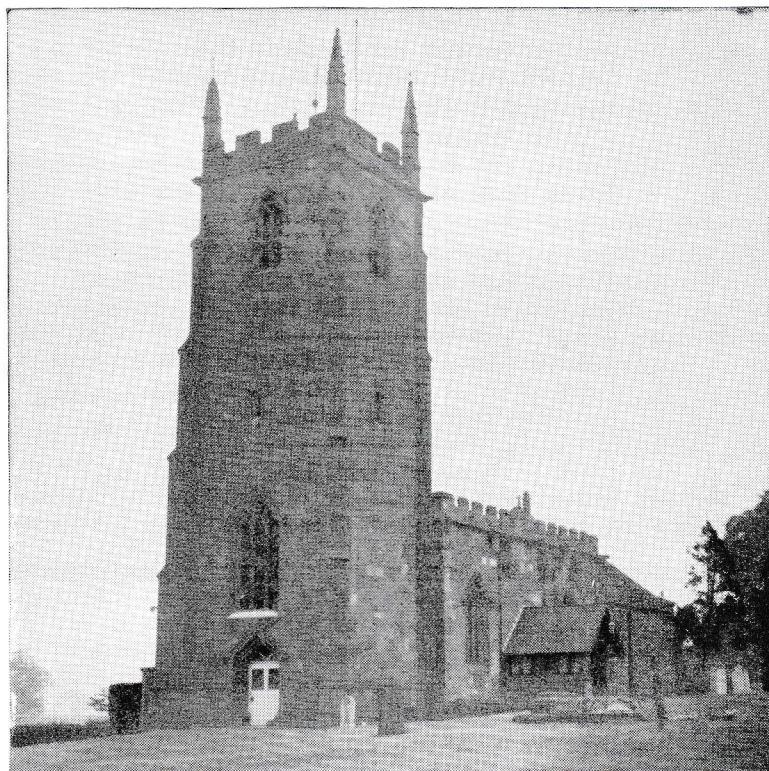
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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SEPTEMBER 2000

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2000

Dear Friends,

Someone said recently 'If you want to get something done, ask a single parent!' Many single parents are working full-time and looking after their family, and they have to get organised.

No single parent would want to be with someone who makes them unhappy. But they may well wish sometimes for a partner on whom they can rely, who would care for them and for the children. It is very hard work on your own, and sometimes lonely too.

This is why God has given us marriage, and he has given it to us for three reasons.

1—**For ourselves.** God wants us to be happy. It is hard work, but rewarding, to live with someone else, learning to love each other through thick and thin. A trustworthy partner takes you through trouble and out the other side, and you can grow closer as time goes on.

It also shows us a little bit of how God himself works—in partnership, the Father with the Son and the Spirit, loving, close, at one. A good marriage reflects this aspect of God's character.

2—**For children.** God wants the human race to continue, and this means fathers and mothers. He also wants children to grow up in a secure environment, and that will happen wherever there are parents who trust each other and are loyal to each other.

3—**For society.** God wants a stable society, and that is only based on stable relationships. Stable relationships only happen where there is trust, loyalty and commitment, in bad times as well as in good. So marriage, as God intended it, is important for the individual, for children and for a strong community.

That's why this month we are celebrating God's gift of marriage in a special Millennium service, at St. Laurence's church on Sunday, 17th September, at 6.30 p.m. The speaker will be Rev. Alister Mort, vicar of St. Mark's, Leamington Spa and organiser of marriage refreshment courses.

We all know that no marriage is perfect, and everyone needs patience, love and persistence to create a strong relationship. Those of us who are married can never rest on our laurels, because marriage is a living, growing bond and needs care and attention, like everything else that is worthwhile.

So if you are married, or have ever been happily married, and would like to say 'thank you' to God, come along and join us.

What about single folks? You are welcome too! I am very grateful to my single friends for the support and understanding they have given me over the years, and I think we should be open with our homes and our friendship to each other. The support of single people is very important to the success of marriage, just as married

folks should support those who are single. We need each other, and we need God too: his presence in our lives, his forgiveness, his commitment to us. Just the sort of love which we should have for each other. We can only do it with his help.

In His love,
Gill & Geoff

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER Theme: **What does Jesus offer?**

We are hoping that **St. John's** will be fully functioning again this month. If so, services will be on 10th and 24th September at 10.15 a.m. On the 24th we plan to have Holy Communion by Extension, and to dedicate and hang a picture of the interior of the old St John's Church.

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

September 3—a.m. Worship for all ages.
p.m. Holy Communion.

September 10—a.m. Holy Communion.
p.m. Evensong.

September 17—a.m. Morning Prayer.
p.m. **'Within the Love of God': a special service for the celebration of marriage.**
Guest speaker: Rev. Alister Mort.

September 24—a.m. Holy Communion.
p.m. Evensong.

Mid-week service: Tuesday, 12th September at 9.30 a.m., in the village hall. This will be followed by the AGM of the Senior Citizens.

HOME COMMUNIONS also on Tuesday, 12th September, after the service.

SEPTEMBER DIARY

September 2nd: Congratulations to Matthew Walton and Andrea Giles on their wedding today.

September 4th 7.30 p.m. at the Rectory: Morning Worship team meets for planning and prayer.

September 6th and 20th: Wednesday Fellowship, probably at Diana's.

September 8th-10th: Prayers please for the Kimbers' daughter Caris, husband Paul and John Collins, who attends St. Laurence's. This is the weekend when they are preparing to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon—in 24 hours!—to raise money for 'TB Alert,' a charity that is dedicated to the research, treatment and prevention of TB. This is on the increase in this country as well as overseas

Saturday, 9th September: Concert of light and varied music by 'Champagne Flutes' as a return visit, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £3.50; Children £2.50 (from Margaret Kimberley).

The church will be open this afternoon from 2.00-5.00 p.m., and also on September 23rd.

Monday, 11th September 1.30 p.m. at the Rectory: Churchwardens' meeting.

At 7.30 p.m.: Ansley Common Fellowship. Also on the 25th.

Wednesday, 13th September at 2.00 p.m.: Prayer group meets. Please pass any requests for prayer to Gill.

Monday, 18th September 7.30 p.m. in St. Wilfrid's Upper Room: **a new Alpha course starts. Anyone interested in being confirmed should be on this course, unless they have already done one. Please have a word with the clergy.**

Thursday, 21st September 7.45 p.m. in village hall: PCC.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Our prayers and sympathy go to the family of Leslie Morris, of Oldbury Hall Gardens in Hartshill, who died aged 78 and whose service was conducted by Donald Parr in St. Laurence's. Leslie was the grandfather of Nicholas Morris, who was married in July at the church.

Thank you to Don for covering services and funerals for both Ansley and Arley so ably while we were away; also to Rev. Canon Peter Buckler, Rev. Nigel Adams, Lay Reader John Clarke and the Morning Worship Team.

Once again, a very warm thank-you to Margaret Antill, Margaret Kimberley, Marcia Sutton, Diana Kealey, Dave Cove and all those who contributed in any way to the hard work and enjoyment of the Flower Festival. It is always a special occasion, valuable not only for its witness to the beauty of God's creation, but also to the way everyone works together.

I'm pleased to be able to tell you that we now have a ramp for the church, which will help with wheelchairs. Thanks to the Truelove family.

Thank you also to Geoff Mellor, who has custom-made some pieces of furniture for the church; a stand for the screen and another for the sound system. They are the work of a craftsman, and were dedicated in the evening service on August 13th.

Gill Kimber.

EDITORIAL

September 2000

Have you noticed how everyone over 30 years old seems obsessed with the News. There is now a channel on T.V. which is news 24 hours a day. Just how much happens in 24 hours? It must be the same news shown over and over again. However, the younger generation hardly know what is going on in the world. This reminds me of World War 2 when grown ups were glued to the radio to hear the latest news, but we as children were completely bored by the whole thing. Now a 'Good News' programme 24 hours a day—that is more like it!

Anyone who has ever been to Shell Island in North Wales can only wonder at the millions of shells. There must be billions of shell fish in the seas and oceans when you see just this one accumulation. It set me thinking how generation after generation of children and the young at heart have spent hours and hours collecting shells from all over the world. Over the years nearly every child collects a seaside bucket or in the later years a carrier bag of shells to take home. The only problem is what to do with these shells. We used to cover jars and containers to make vases, but this seems 'old hat' now. Any suggestions?

We have all heard the saying 'An apple a day keeps the doctor away'. Well now it seems the humble apple is an ancient, reliable and cheap remedy, as apples are high in pectin which is good for bowel health. Also apple pulp is good for soothing mild sunburn and aching feet. That would make a change, sitting with your tired feet in a bowl of apple pulp. It sounds quite pleasant, but anyway we now know where the saying gets its origins.

I love to look through old copies of the Ansley Magazines. I was reading one dated May 1984 when Tim Gouldstone was Vicar and saw this in the Notes—'Worry is like a rocking chair—it will give you something to do but it won't get you anywhere.' How very true!

September 29th, this is St. Michael or Michaelmas Day. I suppose this is where Michaelmas Daisies got their name as they flower in September.

'Fair on September first, fair for the month.' We shall have to wait and see if this old saying is correct but knowing how contrary the weather has been, it is most unlikely.

Marie Cove.