

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

26 Guards

My brother-in-law recently sent me this true story. A missionary who was on leave from his work in an African hospital told it to his home church in Michigan, USA.

'Every two weeks I travelled by bicycle through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. It took two days and required overnight camping. On one of these journeys, I arrived in the city to collect money and buy medicine and supplies.

'When I arrived in the city, I saw two men fighting, one of whom was injured, I treated him for his injuries and talked to him about the Lord. I completed my purchases and travelled home for two days, camping overnight, and arrived without incident.

'Two weeks later I went again. In the city I met the young man I had treated. He told me that he had known I carried money and medicines. He said 'Some friends and I followed you into the jungle, knowing you would camp overnight. We planned to kill you and take your money and drugs. But just as we were about to move into your camp we saw that you were surrounded by 26 armed guards.'

'At this, I laughed and said that I was certainly all alone in the jungle campsite. The young man insisted, 'No sir, I was not the only person to see the guards. My five friends also saw them, and we all counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone.'

At this point in the missionary's sermon, one of the men in the congregation jumped to his feet and asked for the exact date of this incident. When he was told the day, the man who interrupted him said:

'On that day I was going to play golf when I felt the urge to pray for you. It was so strong that I called men in this church to meet me here in the sanctuary to pray for you. Would all those men who met with me that day please stand up?'

When they all stood, the missionary counted them. There were 26.

The theme of our Flower Festival last month was 'The Power of Prayer.' Such stories prove that prayer is never wasted, and we should never ignore a sudden urge to pray for someone. It also shows how important it is to get together with other believers to pray, even though for some of us that may at first feel a bit awkward. That is not a good reason to refuse to pray together, especially when the stakes, unknown to us, may be very high for another person, as they were for the missionary.

My brother-in-law concludes his email:

Nothing is ever hurt by prayer except the gates of hell.

Yours in God's love and power,

Gill and Geoff.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Theme: God's call to Abraham—and us

Services at St. John's Hall, Ansley Common take place at 10.30 a.m. on 9th and 23rd September.

Sunday School resumes when term begins. Please note that there are 5 Sundays this month, so there will be no service on 30th September.

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

September 2—am All-age worship
pm Holy Communion

September 9—am Holy Communion
pm Evensong

September 16—am Morning Prayer
pm Holy Communion

September 23—am Holy Communion
pm Evensong

September 30—A Common Worship service with a **speaker from Tear Fund.**

The three retiring collections for Tear Fund made the wonderful total of £162. This is in response to the appeal for the people of Afghanistan, who are suffering greatly under their political regime. The rains have failed for the third year in a row, and as most of them rely entirely on farming, starvation is forcing them to leave their homes and flee their country to Pakistan in search of food. The UN is calling it the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world today. Let us continue to remember them in our prayers and with generosity.

Morning Prayer for senior citizens, followed by Home Communion: Tuesday, 18th September.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Our sympathy goes to the family of Paul Shaw, whose funeral took place on 10th August.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September 3—7.30 p.m. Links leaders meet at the Rectory.

September 5—Rev. Alan Munden, new vicar of Weddington, will be licensed.

September 6—7.45 p.m. PCC in Village Church Hall.

September 8—The Church will be open 2.00-4.30 p.m. It is also the day when Coventry Cathedral welcomes its new Dean, Rev. John Irvine.

September 10—LINKS Children's Club resumes at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Church Hall. For 7-10 year olds.

September 12 and 26—Wednesday Fellowship.

Also on the 12th, a special open meeting for the deanery at Mancetter at 7.30 p.m. Earlier this year the diocese of Coventry signed a formal document of Companionship with the diocese of Kaduna in Nigeria and with the Syrian Orthodox church in the Holy Land. Both these churches are suffering very greatly, and our companionship is for support and encouragement. **A Syrian Orthodox monk from Jerusalem, Abouna Maroutha, will be speaking at this meeting.** Please do come, it should be fascinating.

September 17—Ansley Common Monday Fellowship resumes.

September 19—Building Committee at 2.00 p.m. at the Rectory.

September 22—Commissioning Service for Duncan and Helen Watts at the Baptist Church, Headington. You are warmly invited to attend. Please see Bill and Mandy for details. Remembering the story of the missionary and his 26 guards in my Letter this month, let us all commit ourselves to praying for them as they go to Central Asia to work amongst the cattle nomads, where Duncan will be acting as Vet and Helen is hoping to use her engineering skills. They will concentrate first on learning the language.

September 23—A special CMS all-age event at Corley Village Hall at 6.00 p.m. All are invited. If you would like a lift, please speak to Geoff.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all those who worked so hard to make our Flower Festival a success and an enjoyment once more. So if you baked, arranged, cleaned, counted money, put up a tent, took your share on duty, talked to people, gardened, sold, washed up, gave money or helped in any way, we appreciate you! And special thanks to the two Margarets, who masterminded the Festival and the Finale.

Thank you from all the Kimber family for the very kind gift of flowers from Ansley Church for Hannah's Blessing of Marriage, beautifully arranged by Chris Reynolds.

On August 12th at 6.30 p.m. we had a special service to commemorate St. Laurence, where a new altar frontal was dedicated. We also dedicated a new Common Worship altar book of services, a gift from Sue Moore in memory of Syd and Annis. With grateful thanks.

The PCC gratefully acknowledge a gift of £500 for the churchyard fund and £500 for the fabric fund from the estate of Mrs. F. Mellor, as well as further donations of £100 from her family in her memory. Mrs. Mellor worshipped at Ansley for over 70 years and always did her bit, helping in her quiet way and supporting her family in all that they do for the church and parish.

The Building Fund jar was recently emptied and produced £47 in coins (notes are removed regularly). Thank you to all who have contributed so far.

NEEDED: A typist with access to a computer who is able to give 8 or 9 evenings a year (plus writing-up time) to become Minutes Secretary to the PCC.

EDITORIAL

1st September, 2001

Welcome to September—the month of many colours, gold, rust, red and yellow and still plenty of greens. The month of fruit and vegetables, misty mornings but still the sun is warm with the promise of perhaps an Indian Summer yet to come.

Where have all those lovely smells gone? When we walked from school we passed Biffin's Fish and Chip Shop where we drank in the wonderful aroma of fish and chips mingled with salt and vinegar. Just a few yards along was the mouth watering smell from Bucklers' Bakery and sometimes we could club together and buy a small freshly baked loaf. Then as we went down our entry, if it was Monday there was the smell of freshly starched sheets or another day wafts of Pearl Barley Broth. However, the most unforgettable smell was when the lady next door made Oxtail Soup, which we never had for some unknown reason, although we did plead for it.

Different people in our lives we can identify with aromas. My mother used lavender water or '4711 Eau De Nil'; we had cards scented with California Poppy and my elder sister had some perfume called 'Midnight in Paris' which we thought was very 'posh.' We also had a small drawer in the dressing table in our bedroom where there was a Eucalyptus leaf, which we loved to smell.

All these lovely aromas and scents are masked today by petrol fumes and the sheer mass of people and cars, but all is not lost, we still have that very special smell of a newly bathed baby, that lovely smell after a dry spell when it rains, and many people are going back to growing flowers, especially roses, with delightful scents. Well, it's a start!

What's in a name? Naming children has gone through many stages and almost full circle, with names of popular film stars, pop stars, sports personalities and royalties very often copied. Many parents have now gone back to older names with 'William' and 'Harry,' 'Alice' and 'Charlotte' being very popular. At one time a name could date someone, but that is not the case now, as older and biblical names are just as likely to be heard as in the 1930's or 1940's. Children are still named after flowers and months of the year, so older names live on despite the range of modern names of today, but one thing is sure, once given a name, love it, hate it or don't particularly care, we are stuck with it for the rest of our lives.

Marie Cove.