

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL

Tel.: 01827 874520

MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel.: 024 7638 1833

St. John's Leaders:

DAVID & MARIE COVE

Tel.: 024 7639 4114

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel: (024) 7638 2902

EDITORIAL

September 1st, 2002

It was a lovely sight driving through Oldbury at dusk in late July. It was dusk and there was an eerie silence but in one field there were lots and lots of rabbits of all sizes, happily playing, free from motor cars and other dangers. Farther on there was a lone adult rabbit sitting bolt upright like a sentry on duty, and just as we passed a fox dashed across the road. It seems it was very sensible to post a guard,

A few years ago there was a quest to find the Nation's favourite poem, which was 'It', and I wondered if there was another survey to find the Nation's favourite book what would it be, I suppose among the young it would be 'Harry Potter' in contrast to mine when I was young—'Little Women' and subsequent sequels about the March family, written by Louisa M. Alcott. However, after all the thousands of books I have read I could only whittle mine down to two favourites—'Silas Marner' by George Eliot and 'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Bronte. These two books I have read time and time again and still love them, and never tire of them, but I don't think they would be everyone's choice, and probably would not win in a National survey. In fact I doubt if any classical book would win, as thousands and thousands of books seem to be available and sometimes the old favourites are forgotten. Only the other day I picked up a book from a Charity Shop while on holiday for only 30p and it was an autobiography only first printed in 1998. It seems books are not treasured now but read once and thrown away, in contrast to my collection some of which I had as a child, and read time and time again,

I paid my first visit to Warwick in early August and of course the Castle. It was all so impressive, but what really came out of this was that we English do not appreciate our National Heritage. The place was packed with people of every nationality, and, in fact, a young man who was a Guide inside the Castle asked us where we had come from, and when I said North Warwickshire, he surprisingly said 'It's nice to see some local visitors,' I felt quite ashamed that I have lived so near to this lovely place all my life and had left it until I was a Senior Citizen to pay a visit. Then as we sat outside in the town eating lunch we got into conversation with an American couple from Ohio and they said the lasting impression of Warwickshire they would take away was the beauty of the flowers displayed in every town throughout the countryside. Perhaps our county should be called the Garden of England and not Kent,

Marie Cove,

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

ST. JOHN'S HALL, ANSLEY COMMON, Services 10.30 a.m.

Sept. 8—Family Service and Sunday School.

Sept. 22—Holy Communion with Archdeacon and Sunday School.

ST. LAURENCE CHURCH, Services 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

- Sept. 1—a.m. Baptism, Rev. D. Jupe,
p.m. BCP Holy Communion, Rev. Nick Clark,
Sept. 8—a.m. Holy Communion, Rev. John Law,
p.m. Evensong, Thelma Burn.
Sept. 15—a.m. All Age Worship, Worship Team.
p.m. Holy Communion, Rev. L. Beard,
Sept. 22—a.m. The Lord is Here, Rev. D. Jupe,
p.m. Evensong, Shirley Trafford.
Sept. 29—a.m. Tearfund, Worship Team,
p.m. Evensong, Shirley Trafford.

If you require the services of a vicar please have a word with Moreen who is dealing with baptisms and Margaret weddings. Funerals can be arranged with either.

Senior Citizens: Monthly Service on Tuesday 10th at 9.30 a.m.
The Ansley Common Fellowship meets on Monday 2nd, 16th and 30th this month.

The Wednesday Fellowship group meet on the 11th and 25th.

The PCC meet on Thursday 19th in the Village Church Hall at 7.45 p.m.

The St. John's Hall Committee meets on Monday 9th at 7.30 p.m.

The Worship team meets on Tuesday 10th at 7.30 p.m.

The Visiting team meets on Tuesday 26th at 7.30 p.m.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

On 4th August we had a full Church to welcome Lily May Manton and Chloe Ann Morewood to the Church family. The service was led by Rev. Pam Stote who made everyone feel at ease, but commissioned everyone to help the children and their families welcome them and to help them come to faith in Christ.

Weddings

Most of the weddings this year have taken place in four weeks:

July 27—James Morris married Hayley Matthews. This was by special licence, and was conducted by Rev. Nick Clarke of Fillongley.

August 3—Gavin Fulleylove and Joanne Thorneycroft.

August 10—Kenton Elkington and Nicola Morris were married by Rev. John Law the former vicar of Fillongley.

August 17—Steven Edwards married Joanna Bannister and Darren Pinfold married Tracy Smith. Both of these services were conducted by Rev. Pam Stote.

Funerals

The funeral of Mrs. Ruth Salmon took place on July 30th followed by internment into her husband, Jim's grave, she was 97. Mrs. Salmon was another of one of the older residents of our parish. She had lived all her life in Ansley, but in several different houses. Born Ruth Green she first lived in a cottage, which is no longer

there at Church End. Her adopted daughter was tragically killed in an accident when she was young. She leaves her sister Edith and our prayers are with her at this time.

On Monday, 19th August the ashes of Mrs. Constance "Connie" Smedley were interred in the Churchyard following a service at the Crematorium on 16th. Connie married Ernest and has a son Philip and there loss is remembered in our prayers. Connie had endured many years of illness, however she was able to go to London and see her husband receive his OBE.

Youth Club. It is with some regret and a little sadness that we announce the closure of Ansley Youth Club, which has been manned by unpaid volunteers for the past 10 years. Due to the lack of support and the increased confines of operating, it has become impossible!

We wish every success to those 33 children who have visited us during the last 12 months. We trust that the experiences and skills will help equip them for the future. David and Gill Morley.

Gift Aid. We are now in a position to tell you that during the tax year ended 5th April, 2002 the Church has been able to reclaim a total of £3303.54 from the Inland Revenue. This represents the total of tax repayable at the standard rate, that the 36 individuals who use one of the methods of Gift Aid for their giving. The figures show how beneficial this method of giving is to the Church at no extra cost to yourself, provided you pay a form of income tax. It works out at an extra £2.80 for every £10.00 given. If any one wishes to know more about Gift Aid please have a word with one of the wardens or Margaret Kimberley. Please note that Gift Aid can be used for a one off donation, it does not have to be a regular amount. Also the different funds can benefit as last year the General Fund received £1753.68; the Building Fund £1527.30 and the Churchyard Fund £22.56.

Remember the Government are refunding this money, it is not you paying extra.

On Saturday, 5th October at 2.30 p.m. Mandy Watts is to be licensed and admitted as a Lay Reader. This will be at the Cathedral and Bishop Anthony and the Dean will be conducting the service. Everyone will be welcome to attend. This represents a great deal of hard work by Mandy over several years, attending evening classes and doing all the "home work." To finally complete her training Mandy will then undertake an attachment to a Church and take all the different kinds of services, that she will be authorised to conduct. This is a great achievement for Mandy who has worked very hard to obtain this result, but also in the face of ill health. We all send Mandy our best wishes and prayers for her future work in Ansley and in the area where she will be working.

In the July I said I would give an outline of the life of Canon Peter Buckler, OBE. Born 1917 in Nuneaton he got a degree and soon after married Mary Mander in 1941 and has been associated with Ansley Church ever since,

He had intended to be a butcher like his father, but went into agriculture instead. First in farming then in agricultural education and went on to become principal of a college. After his ordination in 1966 he became rector of Grendon and the bishop's representative at Stoneleigh. He was joint founder of the Arthur Rank Centre at the Royal Showground, and was associated with this for the rest of his life. He started the Town and Country Festival in 1972, now the biggest August Bank Holiday event in the area.

After retirement in 1983 he became chairman of three local trusts, helping people into employment and the care of the elderly.

Also from 1983 he did all he could for Ansley Church especially helping during the interregnums. It was Peter who helped obtain the first grant for our new building project and has followed and helped with its progress. It was to this project that the donations to his memory were given and the total is £4900.89 The Church Wardens and PCC are very grateful for this sum and thank all those who gave so generously.

Sycamore Counselling Service, 1A Bond Gate Chambers, Bond Gate, Nuneaton

We are looking for volunteer receptionists to join our team. The counselling service is open Monday-Saturday including weekday evenings. Could you prayerfully consider offering cover for one or more of the two hour slots. Training is given. Please contact Yvonne or Anna on 024 7674 4544 for further information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Congratulations to Nursery Hill School on their excellent Inspection Report, well done,

Also congratulations to Jane Sperring (nee Cove) on obtaining a Honours Degree at Warwick University in English.