

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Priest in Charge:

REV. GEOFF KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

Parish Deacon:

REV. GILL KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

Warden & Lay Chairman of P.C.C.:

GEORGE PONDER

Tel.: 392401

Warden:

MARGARET ANTILL

Tel.: 01827 874520

Deputy Wardens:

JOYCE ALLTON

Tel.: 01827 713016

DAVID COVE

Tel.: 394114

ANTHONY TRUELOVE

Tel.: 01676 41105

Newdegate Printers, Nuneaton — Tel.: (01203) 382902

Dear Friends,

As I write, President Clinton is about to face the nation as the videotapes of his trial go on general release. We are told that the tapes show him refusing to answer questions, getting angry and being evasive. The American public seems to be divided, between those who think that he should go and those who think that he should stay.

How should we, as Christians, consider all this?

There is a school of thought which says "It doesn't matter what you do in private. If you are doing your job well, that's what matters."

But let's face it—Bill Clinton has lied to his government, to his justice system, to his nation and even to his family in order to protect himself. This is not just about his affair with Monica Lewinsky. It's about whether someone who is prepared to cheat on his wife and then publicly to lie about it is a fit person to be taking decisions of international importance. If he can't be trusted by those who are nearest and dearest to him, can he be trusted by heads of governments?

So it's about **trust**.

It's also about **truth**. What disturbs me most about the whole unsavoury business is that Clinton seems to be using truth as a tool to stay in power. He will only tell the truth if he thinks it will help him politically. He apparently distorts or suppresses the truth if he thinks it will be damaging for his career. He's not the only one! For him and others who do the same, what he wants is the only thing that really matters.

But as Christians we believe that truth is not something to be used, or something to bend and twist to suit our purposes. Jesus said "I am the way, **the truth** and the life." Truth is an eternal value, something outside ourselves. We are to measure what we say and do by God's standard of truth, a standard that does not change.

One day God in his truth will judge our words and actions. As the song says, there will be nowhere to run and nowhere to hide. We will no longer be able to duck and dive, to justify ourselves, to pretend. What we want out of life will no longer be relevant, because God in his truth will have one question for us.

"Have you lived your life according to My will? Have you sought to speak and act the truth in all your dealings?"

Lies bind us. They say you have to have a good memory to be a liar. They spoil relationships.

Jesus, the Truth, sets us free—free to be open and honest with Him, with each other and with ourselves.

Seek Jesus and you find the truth!

With love in His Name,

Gill and Geoff.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER — Theme: Gifts for the common good

Services at St. John's Hall are at 10.15 a.m.

This month we meet on 11th and 25th October. All are welcome to this short, informal and friendly service.

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

4th October: am Family Service.

pm Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.

11th October — HARVEST SUNDAY

8.00 a.m. Quiet Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Harvest Communion.

6.30 p.m. Festival Evensong.

18th October: am Morning Prayer.

pm Holy Communion.

25th October: am Holy Communion.

pm Evening Prayer.

MID-WEEK SERVICES

At St. John's:

Tuesday, 6th October: 9.30 a.m. Quiet Holy Communion.

At Ansley Village Church Hall:

Tuesday, 20th October: Morning Prayer with Harvest Hymns.

Followed by Senior Citizens. All welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 5th October: Leaders planning the expansion of the youth group meet at 34 Nuthurst Crescent, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 7th October: Worship team meets at Arley Rectory, 7.45 p.m.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR HARVEST

This begins on Friday, 9th October in the evening and Saturday, 10th from 9.00 a.m. Do come along to share in one of the many things that Ansley does so well !! Even if you are no good at arranging flowers (like me) your help will be welcome in other ways.

Monday, 12th October: We welcome Nursery Hill children to St. Laurence for their Harvest service. Followed by collecting the produce and taking it to the church hall—help will be welcome.

7.30 p.m. AUCTION OF HARVEST PRODUCE, Village Church Hall.

Tuesday, 13th October: 1.30 p.m. Building Committee meets in church.

Thursday, 15th October: Harvest Supper 7.45 p.m. Church Hall.

Tickets available from Gill Kimber, Margaret Antill (01827) 874520 and Margaret Kimberley (01203) 384680. Price £3.25. There will be a choice of chicken or fish and chips, followed by trifle or apple pie and cream, with tea and coffee. Please book in advance to help us with catering arrangements. Bookings close 11th October. All are welcome.

Monday, 19th October: Christian Viewpoint Committee meets at 'Wayside,' Birchley Heath, 1.30 p.m.

Thursday, 22nd October: 7.45 p.m. Village Church Hall, P.C.C.

Saturday, 24th October: Gideons Rally at Etone School, 3.00 p.m. Details from Gill.

The Fellowship Group and those who did Alpha will be joining forces and looking at 'Journeys of Discovery.' This is a study course which assumes that everyone is at a different place in their Christian journey, and will, I hope, help each one to travel on to the next stage. Details from Gill.

If you would like to join a small group to get to know God and each other better, now is an excellent time to start. Please have a word with Gill, you will be most welcome.

My diary says that **Summer Time ends** at 1.00 a.m. on Sunday, 25th October and we should put back our clocks. I guess most of us are asking "When did it start? Because we've missed it!" Maybe we'll have a warm autumn.

What a wonderful 'Flower Festival' we had at the end of August. Everyone enjoyed themselves. So many people did so much in so many different ways it would not be possible to mention all except that everyone pulled together and brought much pleasure to a great number of people. Finally, it raised £1268 for the 3 causes which will be apportioned as agreed by the P.C.C. and cheques will be presented at Harvest. To one and all—Thank You.

Margaret Antill.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Mrs. Pointon who died in September. She was a remarkable lady, well loved by so many, especially those for whom she cooked at Ansley School, the Rambling Club and the Methodist Church. She will be sadly missed but also fondly remembered for her very active and full life. "The eternal Father is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms," Deut. 33.27.

EDITORIAL

1st October, 1998

As Autumn visits us once again, we can only wonder at the colours of the leaves, and the birds who miraculously appear from nowhere to frequent our gardens once again. There is that nip in the air, especially night and morning and mist hangs over us, which tells us that summer has gone for another year. My small grandson proudly showed me his vest and said, "The doctor says if you want to be well, you should wear a vest." This sounds more like something I should be saying to him, not the other way around. Gone are the days when we all wore liberty bodices despite protests of itching and what happened to those rubber buttons?

Perhaps now we will sort out the seasons as summer has seemed very strange this year—hardly a day without a cool breeze and never able to string two or three warm days together. Despite this, when the sun did shine the gardens were a picture, and hanging baskets and tubs have been a joy to behold. As soon as the sun did come out the gardens were immediately filled with bees and butterflies and it makes you wonder where they all hide themselves. This inclement weather has not affected the blackberries either, as they have been abundant and so large, it took only a matter of a few minutes to pick a bowl full. You just needed to dodge the showers and of course the stinging nettles.

I love reading Proverbs in the bible and sometimes think how we have used these wise sayings of Solomon and they are still so true in our daily life and it set me wondering if like me, anyone remembers the sayings of their childhood. Even today I find myself repeating what my mother used to say, and many of these sayings relate to the Proverbs of thousands of years ago. One of my mother's favourites was "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." I don't know about wealthy but certainly as I get older I love the early morning, with its peace, tranquility and quietness, when you can almost hear your thoughts. This is very comforting and something to enjoy in this world which is so noisy and turbulent and every second must be filled with sounds.

Last month I mentioned items that go missing, such as pegs, pens and teaspoons, well I am reminded of a few more elusive items—socks and hair bands and slides. How many of us have scoured drawers and airing cupboard, only to find we have one of each colour sock, and those with small girls can only wonder at the number of hair slides, clips and hair bands which seem to vanish into thin air. Having read the book "The Borrowers" can it be that they have returned?

Marie Cove