

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

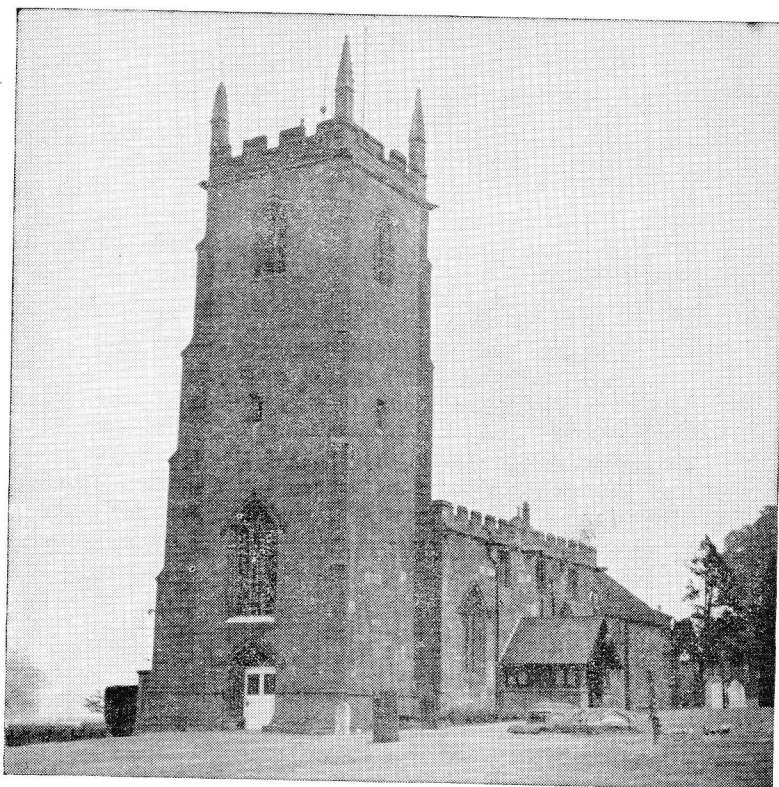
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## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 1999

Dear Friends,

'It's not the vicar, asking for money again!'

Sadly the church does seem to have this reputation, but this vicar has not asked for money before. Somebody once said that the last place to be converted is our wallets . . . well, that may be true of some, but my experience of Ansley is of generous people who not only give but also work hard to raise money.

### **So why give money to the church?**

(1) We are a practical lot in Ansley. We know that the lighting, heating, and insurance on the church costs money, and we like to pay our bills in full and on time. We have a much-loved old building—but it needs care and attention and expensive repairs. We have church halls to look after, and a church car park which is used by all who come to the churchyard. This is now in serious need of resurfacing—before we all start getting stuck in the mud!

Then every church must pay a parish share to the diocese, and ours currently stands at £10,598 per year. The money goes to central funds to pay clergy wages, upkeep of vicarages, ordination training and pensions.

**We do not have any financial help from any organisation to help us with our responsibilities—we are entirely dependent on people's goodwill and generosity.**

(2) But Ansley folks are not only practical. You are also concerned for the needs of others less fortunate than yourselves, so money is raised in different ways to support charities in this country and overseas. This is part of the Christian care to which we are called by God.

### **'But I thought the church had lots of money!'**

We do have some resources, but most of them are in restricted accounts. This means, for example, that money which is given specially for the fabric of the church, cannot be used for other purposes, like youth work or the upkeep of the halls. So we still have to find it in other ways, and this is a good point at which to **thank you for all you give, however large or small.** It is always appreciated, and we know that folks try and give as much as they can whenever they can.

(3) But the biggest reason of all to give money is just not to pay bills or to help others, although both of these are important. It is because God himself has given everything to us in his Son Jesus, giving up his life for us on the cross. As Isaac Watts wrote in his wonderful hymn,

**'Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.'**

In this magazine you will find a stamped envelope. Please use it for your gift to God, for the mission and ministry of His church, and as a way of saying 'Thank You' to him. Harvest happens this month, and Harvest is a particularly good time to say Thank You. So we

will be having a special **Gift Day on Harvest Sunday, 10th October**. Please bring your donation to the services, where it will be received with a prayer of thanksgiving.

**You are especially invited to the Harvest Festival Evening service at 6.30 p.m., when our guest preacher will be the new Bishop of Coventry, the Right Rev. Colin Bennetts**. This is Bishop Colin's first visit to Ansley, and it would be wonderful to greet him and support him with a full church. That would truly be a way of saying 'Thank You' to God for all his blessings to us.

In His Love,  
Gill and Geoff.

#### **SERVICES FOR OCTOBER**

**Theme: God's earth**

The service at St. John's Hall is on 24th October at 10.15 a.m. **There will be a joint Harvest service at St. Laurence's on 10th October**. At St. Laurence's church the services take place at **10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.**

**October 3—a.m. Special service for Silver Anniversary of the Sunday School. Guest: Rev. Martin Green, Diocesan Children's Officer.**

p.m. Traditional Holy Communion.

#### **October 10—HARVEST THANKSGIVING AND GIFT DAY**

**8.00 a.m. Holy Communion**

**10.30 a.m. Family Holy Communion**

**6.30 p.m. Festival Evening Service with Rt. Rev. Colin Bennetts  
Bishop of Coventry**

October 17—a.m. Morning Prayer,  
p.m. Holy Communion.

October 24—a.m. Holy Communion,  
p.m. Traditional Evensong.

October 31—a.m. and p.m. Special Service for **Tear Fund Sunday**.

**Mid-Week Services:** Tuesday, 5th October at 9.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer with Dave Cove at St. John's.

Tuesday, 19th October at 9.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer with Harvest hymns in the Village Church Hall.

Please note: Home Communion will be on Tuesday, 12th October (Second Tuesday).

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: and it's a full month.**

Monday, 4th October and every Monday: **LINKS** club in the church hall for children aged 7-11 years. Time: 7.00-8.00 p.m. Subs 30p. All children in this age group welcome.

Wednesday, 6th October and every Wednesday fortnightly: Fellowship group meets, usually at 10 Nuthurst Crescent at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 9th October: Please come to the church at 10.00 a.m. and help decorate it for Harvest Festival. The church will be open in the afternoon 2.00-5.00 p.m.

There will also be a sponsored walk, from 10.00 a.m. until noon, from St. John's Hall to raise money for the ramp. Details from Jean Wakeford-Davy (395640).

Monday, 11th October from 9.30 a.m.: we welcome children and their parents from Nursery Hill School to church for their Harvest Concert.

Then it's time to clear the church of harvest produce and clean up ! All help welcome. There will be a harvest sale of produce in the church hall in the evening at 7.30 p.m. Please note: No Monday group tonight because of the sale.

Tuesday, 12th October 1.30 p.m.: Churchwardens meet at the Rectory.  
Wednesday, 13th October 1.00 p.m.: Intercessory group meets at 10 Nuthurst Crescent.

Thursday, 14th October 7.30 p.m : Harvest Supper in the Church Hall with magician Colin Brown. Bring a bottle—bring a friend—bring yourself. Tickets £4.00 from Margaret Kimberley (384680) or from Church.

Friday, 15th October and Saturday, 16th October 10.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m.: Autumn sale of plants, money to go to St. John's ramp fund. Friday—in church hall. Saturday—in St. John's. Thanks to Dave Cove.

Monday, 18th October at 7.00 p.m. and fortnightly: Monday group meets in Ansley Common. Venue to be arranged.

Thursday, 21st October: Best wishes to 'The Commoners,' St. John's over-50's and company, as they present '77 Sunset Strip' this evening !

Saturday, 30th October: British Summer Time ends and clocks go back.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

There will be a speaker on the history and archaeology of St. Laurence's church on Thursday, 11th November at 7.30 p.m. Details from Margaret Antill.

Confirmation this year will take place at Fillongley on Sunday, 21st November in the evening.

Thank you once more to the enterprising Marie Cove and her supporters, who organised a line dance in aid of the St. John's ramp fund and raised £49. It was great fun spotting who had the most left feet! (I don't think it was Ray. More likely to be Geoff Kimber). Gill Kimber.

The Flower Festival this year was I feel another resounding success in many ways. The weather was wonderful, not too hot and muggy, so the flowers kept well, and no rain. The old marquee has served its purpose for another year. I think it must be 30 years now. Thank you to **everyone** who helped in any way; there are so many things to do, and without the help and support of all, including those who make donations of flowers, the event could not have been the same.

The financial reward to the Church and the two charities is £1545.72. However, the reward to the Church family has been wonderful. So many visitors have commented on the warmth and the atmosphere of the church. Even the Bishop made the comment that the church was "litup" in a special way. It is only by the care and concern, love and devotion of all, not only of our lovely Church building, but, and more importantly, of one another. M. Antill.

We would like to add our thanks to Ansley Allotment Association members who kept the produce stall at the Flower Festival stocked with produce of every kind. We had so many visitors there were times when stocks were very low, but not for long as Allotment members came forward with further supplies. Your generosity is

greatly appreciated. Thank you all, We also thank Mrs. Freeman of Plough Hill Road for the damsons, and we wish her a speedy recovery after her hip operation. Marie and David Cove.

We wish Many Happy Returns to Mr. Sturgess of Ansley Common, who celebrated his 90th Birthday in August.

On Tuesday, 5th October there will be a Coffee Morning 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon at Ansley Village Church Hall, admission 50p. Proceeds to the MacMillan Nurses and the Mary Ann Evans Hospice. Everyone welcome.

From P.C.C. 22nd July, 1999. Great Cake Bake raised £53. Gift of an organ, in good order, for St. John's, gratefully accepted and now in use.

### EDITORIAL

1st October, 1999

Well, what glorious weather we have had this summer, especially in August when there were more visitors to the Flower Festival than I can remember for many years. It was lovely to meet up with people we only see once or twice a year and who come back every year to enjoy the beauty and skill of the flower arrangements and have a chat over a cup of tea. Someone said how they thought the marquee was great—we think so too as it has been a faithful asset for so many years. One small girl called it a big umbrella and this was very appropriate as it has sheltered us through all sorts of weather just like a trusty brolly.

Have you ever enjoyed a meal and then felt very reluctant to do the clearing away and washing up? We had to take it in turns when we were children, one washing and one wiping, and believe me this was no small feat for 7 or even 9 people, but we used to sing all the time we were doing it. The following poem from the bible notes 'Our Daily Bread' reminded me that even through the worst times in our lives those dirty dishes remind us that we have always had enough or more than enough to eat.

'Thank God for dirty dishes, they have a story to tell.  
While others may be hungry, we are eating very well.  
With home, health and happiness I shouldn't want to fuss  
By this great stack of evidence, God's been very good to us.'

Thinking of food, can anyone think of some special food we used to enjoy but are now forbidden to eat, either because it is bad for our health or makes us fat. It is the bread of years ago that I miss because it really was then the 'Staff of Life' the very basis of our food, and it was delicious. We didn't need fancy foods for our tea—fresh bread with pork dripping and salt, homemade jam or potted beef, bought by the quarter, but the best part of it all was the bread. We even used to club together and buy a small loaf from the Bakery at the top of Chapel End, break it in pieces and eat it just as it was. I think of all things really good bread is hard to find.

Marie Cove.