

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 904

OCTOBER 2000

Price 25p



Priest in Charge:

REV. GEOFF KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

Parish Deacon (Half-time):

REV. GILL KIMBER

Tel.: 01676 540378

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL

Tel.: 01827 874520

MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel.: 024 7638 1833

Deputy Wardens:

JOYCE ALLTON

Tel.: 01827 713016

DAVID COVE

Tel.: 024 7639 4114

ANTHONY TRUELOVE

Tel.: 01676 541105

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

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2000

Dear friends,

Well, the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is upon us again, and what a beautiful season it is: leaves turning all shades, some dramatic sunsets, and berries in the hedgerows. We are lucky to live in such lovely countryside.

The farmers of course don't have time to admire the view. They are too busy getting in the harvest. Despite the appalling obstacles they face—and the petrol shortage was just the latest—we are also lucky to live in such a fertile country. Having lived in Nigeria, where there was no rain for 8 months of each year, and fresh vegetables were hard to come by, I appreciate the high quality of British meat and produce. Harvest time reminds us just how many of God's blessings we enjoy, and how much we need to share those blessings with those who are worse off.

Just as the crops need rain and sun in order to grow, we need the help of the Holy Spirit to enable us to grow. God is looking for a harvest in our lives: or deepening prayer, growing faith, practical love. The Spirit is the one who gives us a hunger for God, and who works in our lives according to God's purpose. He is the one who calls people everywhere to faith in Jesus Christ.

For our harvest celebration we will be hearing how the Holy Spirit is bringing about **a harvest in the lives of young people**. It is astonishing how many youngsters in the 15-25 age bracket are responding to God and growing in Christian faith and commitment. This summer, 11,000 young people flocked to Manchester for a project called 'Message 2000.' For 2 weeks they picked up litter, tidied inner-city estates and ran cafes around the city for other young people. There was also worship, teaching and a chance to make a commitment to Christ. 1700 people did so.

During these two weeks, police confirmed that the crime rate dropped on the notorious Swinton Valley estate, where the youngsters were working. Follow-up will be through 250 local churches. It is part of an on-going project which requires its workers to live for at least 5 years on local estates, sharing the love of God in practical ways. One of the organisers said: 'evangelism isn't just going up and preaching to people. It can be as simple as mowing your neighbour's grass.'

So how do we reach our young people with the Good News of Jesus? What is it that is attracting so many thousands to the love of God, all over the country?

Come along to our Harvest Festival service at 6.30 p.m. on October 8th, and hear how they are doing it in Coventry! Charlie Turner (who is female, by the way) has been working with youngsters for several years and seen exciting developments. You may remember her name from a previous magazine, as she was in Ansley working with the LINKS children this summer. We look forward to hearing her message.

May God bless each one of us with a harvest of faith and hope in our lives, and our youngsters with new life in Christ.

In His love,
Gill and Geoff Kimber.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Theme: God revealed in Jesus

At St. John's Hall, Ansley Common, services are at 10.15 a.m.

October 8—Harvest Family Service,

October 22—Holy Communion by Extension.

At St. Laurence's, services are at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

October 1—a.m. Worship for all ages,

p.m. Holy Communion by Extension.

October 8—8.00 a.m. Holy Communion,

a.m. Harvest Communion Service.

p.m. Harvest Festival Evensong. Guest Speaker: Charlie Turner, co-director of the Coventry Diocesan Children's Team.

October 15—a.m. Worship for all ages, with Baptism,

p.m. Holy Communion.

October 22—a.m. Holy Communion,

p.m. Evensong.

October 29th—TEAR Fund services morning and evening.

Mid-week service: Tuesday 9.30 a.m. in the village church hall—October 10th.

OCTOBER DIARY

October 3—Clergy and Lay Reader to attend a workshop on the new Common Worship Holy Communion services.

October 4 and 18—Wednesday Fellowship at 34 Nuthurst Crescent.

Friday, 6 October—7.30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, Fillongley:

Institution of Rev. Nick Clarke as vicar of Corley and Fillongley.

Please pray for Nick, Cherry and their family as they take up their new responsibilities.

Saturday, 7 October—Please come and help decorate the church for harvest, from 10.00 a.m. The church will be open for the last time this year, 2.00-5.00 p.m.

Monday, 9 October—Sale of harvest produce in the church hall at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, 10 October—Home Communion.

Saturday, 14 October—Simultaneous singing of Handel's 'Messiah,'

beginning 7.30 p.m., in aid of hospice funds around the country. See notice elsewhere in magazine.

October 18—Standing Committee meets at 7.30 p.m., promptly at the Rectory.

October 19—Harvest Supper in the church hall: details and tickets from Margaret Kimberley 024 7638 4680, and church members. Suppers need to be ordered in advance. You may bring a bottle for yourself—but please also bring a glass!

October 23—Ansley Common Monday Fellowship at 7.30 p.m.

October 25—2.00 p.m. Pray time at 1 Park Cottages.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Our love and prayers go to Anne Moore and her family, on the death of Syd at the age of 86. Syd was church organist for many years.

Also to the family of Walter Ingram, aged 86 who lived at Robinson's End;

the family of Berenice Lewell, who lived at 14 Merevale Avenue;

and to Ruth Berridge and her family, whose mother died in Dawlish.

They have been buried in family graves in Ansley churchyard.

I would like to remind everyone that only parishioners, those who die in the parish and those who, through regular church attendance, are on the church electoral roll, are entitled to burial in St. Laurence's churchyard. Ashes may also be interred in existing family graves. Non-parishioners do not usually have the legal right to be buried in the churchyard.

There are also diocesan regulations about headstones, Please ask for information from the clergy or funeral directors, to avoid disappointment.

We welcome Daniel Humpage for his baptism this month; congratulations to Ross and Joanne.

THANK YOU

- to Rev. Stan Marriott, who wowed us at the Flower Festival! It was good to meet him and for many people to have the chance to renew an old friendship;
- to the Morley family for the bench in the churchyard which has been donated in memory of David's mother Meg;
- to Malcolm Sutton, once more, for all his efforts in providing the ramp at St. John's Hall;
- to Jane and Margaret Kimberley and the Champagne Flutes, for a very enjoyable concert evening;
- to all those who supported our daughters, Caris and Juliet, our son-in-law Paul and John Collins of the morning congregation, in their 'Three Peaks Challenge' in aid of the charity TB Alert. They, with 15 others, completed all 3 peaks in 30 hours. The amount made is not yet known;
- to Fiona McDonald for playing the morning services over the past three years. We shall miss her!—but she is finding her other commitments very time-consuming. So if you know of any pianists, who could play some hymns for us, please tell Gill.

Congratulations to **Rev. Ian Hobbs**, vicar of Bedworth, who is the new Rural Dean of Nuneaton Deanery, succeeding Rev. John Philpott. Did you know?—that Nuneaton Deanery comprises the following parishes: Atherstone, Mancetter, Hartshill, Weddington and Caldecote, Ansley and Arley, Galley Common and Camp Hill, Stockingford, Nuneaton itself, (Chilvers Coton and Astley, Attleborough, St. Nicolas, St. Mary's Abbey), Fillongley and Corley, Bedworth, Exhall, Burton Hastings, Bulkington with Shilton and Ansty, Wolvey, Copston Magna and Withybrook. Population: 139,761. It is by far the biggest deanery in the diocese. It should certainly keep Ian busy!

JAM JAR ALERT!—Margaret Antill is keen to have your 1lb. and your 12oz. jam jars please.

STOP PRESS! While Ray is out of action, the following people have been temporarily appointed—Gerald Freestone, to look after the upkeep and maintenance of the church hall; and Dave Cove, who will take bookings. (024 7639 4114).

Rev. Gill Kimber.

A gift of £500 has been given to Ansley Church in memory of Ella Bennett (nee Goode) who died recently. Ella Goode, as she was known by many, attended Ansley School and her father, who lived opposite the Church Hall in Ansley Village, looked after the hall for many years. Many residents of Ansley Village have fond memories of Ella, and we would like to thank her family for this generous gift in her memory.

B.T. VOICE FOR HOSPICES 2000. Saturday, 14th October marks a worldwide simultaneous singing of Handel's 'Messiah' to raise vital funds for local hospice care units. Over 40 countries are expected to take part, and at 7.30 p.m., on that date, there will be 240 simultaneous performances commencing in the U.K. alone. The nearest performance is in Bedworth, at Nicholas Chamberlaine School, with soloists, choir and orchestra. (Tickets price £5.00 from Barbara Lowe, Hospice Shops or at the door). All money raised will be donated to the Mary Ann Evans Hospice, Nuneaton. At the last time this event took place, three years ago, over £2,000 was raised in Bedworth for the local hospice.

EDITORIAL

October 2000

September is over but what a beautiful month with its many different faces. Sometimes we think winter is coming with the chill in the air, then we have misty mornings and when we think the good weather is over, lo and behold we have some glorious sunshine and decent temperatures. There are lots of flowers still in bloom, fruit to pick and the days seem more gentle, even if shorter. September was always one of my favourite months, even though in earlier days it was back to school, and thinking of this I wondered how today's children and young people had spent their summer holidays. Perhaps they visited 'The Dome,' 'Cadbury's World,' 'Sea Life,' went on seaside holidays here or abroad. I know that many local children spent hours and hours in local parks and recreation grounds, just as we played in the fields in our childhood. The computer age may be upon us but a game of cricket, tennis, football, bike rides or just messing about with friends is still great, and it gives the older generation great pleasure just to watch the young people enjoying themselves.

Autumn is here—the nights are darker and chillier and there is dew on the cars and plants each morning. I watched as the swallows had their last flight and prepared to leave for warmer parts, but the most ludicrous thing I had ever heard was an advertisement for people to apply for Christmas jobs. What a shame we can't have Autumn and enjoy all this season brings with picturesque scenes of gold and brown hedgerows and trees, tomatoes in greenhouse and garden, many varied Autumn flowers, bright berries and of course the return of the birds and especially the robin to our gardens. There is also the harvest when we give thanks for all we have, for every season and for this beautiful world. This year we have seen corn in the fields and also livestock, which seem to have been missing for some time but one of the best sights we saw this summer was a field of potatoes in flower. You could never imagine a field of potatoes could make such a beautiful sight. As a famous poet once said 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.'

Well, another Flower Festival has come and gone leaving us with some lovely memories. It is great helping out in the marquee as year after year we meet up with people who have been enjoying the flowers, the message, a cup of tea/coffee and a cake and a chat. The same old friends come back year after year and the marquee continues to give shelter and comfort to all who enter in, and may this wonderful social event continue for many years to come.

Marie Cove