

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

The tragic events of Tuesday, 11th September and the awful images of death and destruction in the United States shocked us all. Who can forget seeing the planes flying into the twin towers of the World Trade Centre, and the vast office blocks crumbling like houses of cards? How should Christians respond?

1 **With sympathy.** There are thousands of families who have lost loved ones, and St. Paul encourages us to weep with those who weep.

2. **In some ways, it is right to be angry.** Nothing can justify such appalling acts of terrorism. But do not let us be hasty in deciding who to blame. Most Muslims are peace-loving people, exactly the same as we are, and only want to live in peace. We should not blame them for the fanaticism of a few.

3. **With love.** Provost Dick Howard showed us the true Christian way when he went into the smoking ruins of the Cathedral and said that we must choose forgiveness and reconciliation, rather than revenge. We are called to follow Jesus, who teaches us to love our enemies.

4. **With important questions.** Why would people from poor countries want to do such a thing to a rich western nation? Perhaps it is because we have used our money to harm people, not to help them, out of sheer greed. And why are we so shocked at the attack on Manhattan, when thousands of innocent people and children are dying every day in other countries at the hands of other terrorists, and we hardly notice?

5. **With a serious look at our world.** The twentieth century has been described as the most violent in the history of the world. This century may be even worse. Jesus tells us that there will be 'wars and rumours of wars . . . famines and earthquakes,' and that these are just the first signs of his return. He tells us not to waste time in trying to predict when he will come back, but to be prepared to welcome him when we least expect him.

For those in the twin towers of Manhattan the day of meeting him came without warning. What about us? None of us knows the hour. But are we living our lives so that we are ready at all times? Because that day will surely come. May we be ready.

In His love,

Geoff and Gill.

Sunday Services in October

Theme: Knowing God—readings from Colossians

Services at St. John's Hall, Ansley Common: on 14th and 28th October.

Services at St. Laurence's are 10.30 and 6.30

October 7—a.m. All age worship
p.m. Holy Communion

October 14—HARVEST

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

6.30 p.m. Evensong

October 21—a.m. Morning Prayer with Baptism
p.m. Holy Communion

October 28—a.m. Holy Communion
p.m. Evensong

Harvest Celebrations

Saturday, 13 October at 10.00 a.m. Come and help decorate the church.

Sunday, 14 October

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10.30 a.m. Harvest Communion

6.30 p.m. Evensong

There will be a speaker from Coventry Youth For Christ at both main services as this is the mission our church supports.

Also in Village Hall later that week:

Monday 15 at 7.30 p.m. Sale of Produce.

Wednesday 17 at 7.30 p.m. Harvest Supper. Buy your tickets now £5 each.

Other events this month:

Monday 1—Ansley Common Fellowship (and 15 and 29).

Wednesday 10—Fellowship at 10 Nuthurst Crescent (and 24).

Wednesday 10—7.30 p.m. Deanery Synod in Arley, St. Michael's.

Thursday 11—Prayer time for the church, the parish and the world.

Friday 12—Wardens meeting at 10.30 a.m.

Monday 15—Nursery Hill School visit to St. Laurence.

Tuesday 16—9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer at Senior Citizens, followed by Home Communion.

Thursday 25—7.45 p.m. PCC at the Church Hall.

This month Bishop Colin is sending Gill to London for a week's training in reconciliation and conflict resolution (15th-19th). Sadly, this means that Geoff will have to have her share of the Harvest Supper.

We welcome John Coulthwaite into God's family by baptism this month (21st).

A very big thank you to everyone who helped, gave, supported and the hundred and one other things that make the Flower Festival such a resounding success, both financially at £1728.60 and by giving so much pleasure to all who visited. It was a wonderful weekend. Thank you.

We must not forget the people of St. John's who raised a further £165 for the Building Fund over the same weekend.

Also the £60 sponsorship money raised by Lyndsey Todd.

There was also £23.75 from the Jar in Church and with other items a Total of £1135.35 has been raised for the building fund. £432.15 for the Acorn Hospice and £432.15 for the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends.

Thank you one and all.

Building Fund Jar for September — £30.20.

We apologise to Moreen and Gerald Freestone for the delay in thanking them very much for holding an at-home party for personal friends, neighbours and relatives, who raised the magnificent total of £310 for the Building Fund.

It is with sadness we report on the recent death of Mrs. Harrison who spent most of her life in Ansley Common but moved to Hartshill in later years. She worked tirelessly for St. John's and also supported St. Laurence. She will be missed, but we thank God for her life and witness.

EDITORIAL

1st October, 2001

As Autumn is with us so the gardens take on a different hue. Gone are the fragile flowers of summer and now there are golds, yellows, rust and berries of all sizes and shapes, apples hang from branches and the world seems quieter and gentler as the bright colours give way to subtler shades.

If anyone asks how to make an everyday dish we know exactly how we prepare and cook it but what about the exact ingredients—well that is another matter. When we were young our mother never owned a pair of weighing scales or even a measuring jug, but she made rich fruit cake, bread pudding, scones, Victoria sandwich, you name it she made it when she could get the ingredients. She knew exactly how much of each of the items using only tablespoons, teaspoons and guess work. If asked the exact amounts for such things as Yorkshire Pudding, Crumbles, etc., although I do own kitchen scales, I still use my mother's method and know exactly how much flour, etc., by using tablespoons, etc., but this is not unusual as next time you watch 'Ready, Steady, Cook' you will not see a pair of scales. It seems they too know instinctively how much to use resulting in some mouth watering dishes and after all it's taste that counts.

Ever done any people watching? We sat in a cafe in a Birmingham Market recently having a cup of tea and it was absolutely fascinating how many combinations there are of two eyes, a nose and a mouth. In the short time we sat literally dozens of people passed by, all completely different. It was also puzzling in this world where young people all want to look the same, that even if the clothes are almost identical everyone looks different. You could never believe that a body, a head and four limbs could come in so many different shapes and sizes. How great to think of the diverse nature of the human race with everyone entirely different as even identical twins have little subtle differences.

In today's world it seems that if someone uses a word or phrase this is immediately seized upon and everyone starts using it. Not so long ago everyone was using the phrase 'at the end of the day.' Then we constantly heard the word 'sibling.' Well, with the onset of Autumn, weather forecasters have a new word 'Autumnal.' It is only logical to me that we know in Autumn it feels 'Autumanal' but until this year I have never heard it used so many times. I wonder what the next popular word or phrase will be, I'm sure we won't have to wait long.

Next time someone tells you 'You are in the twilight of your life' tell them "No, I am a recycled teenager."

Marie Cove.