

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 869

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FROM THE EDITOR

28 Nuthurst Crescent,
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1st November, 1997

Dear Friends,

As we welcome Geoff and Gill Kimber to Ansley Parish, we hope they will bring with them many blessings but also that we can get to know them, not only as Priest-in-Charge and Deacon, but also as our friends.

It is one of the good aspects of village life that everyone knows everyone else. Their needs should be our needs, their joys our joys, and especially this brings back memories of times of special celebrations when whole communities joined as one.

We remember the Jubilee and the Royal Wedding and those of us who are older have special memories of the unforgettable celebrations for V.E. Day and the Coronation. It was so exciting as parties were organised, everyone came together and barriers went down where there had been bad feeling or differences between the poor and the not so poor.

As I remember V.E. Day, it was not only victory in Europe but victory for good neighbourliness, friendship, co-operation and love for our fellow man. It was magical, unforgettable and our children and children's children will perhaps have photographs or even the mugs which were distributed for the Coronation and Jubilee. I have a book which I won for the egg and spoon race on V.E. Day, and it isn't a particularly interesting book, but I sometimes get it out and look at it and remember that special day.

It would be nice to think that some of that community spirit has never died. Those friends we made all those years ago we still remember, and perhaps that spirit of friendship doesn't need a national occasion to be rekindled in our daily lives as we work to bring the Parish together.

There are many new residents, both young and old, who now live in the Parish, and it would be nice to hold out a friendly hand to them; let them know that the Church and its members would like to include and welcome them. If the church is not for them, then let us invite them to groups and social events to let them know we want everyone to feel part of our community.

Matthew 10 : v 40. "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

God Bless,
Marie.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Getting to know you

Dear Friends,

"Getting to know you, getting to know all about you . . ." sang the boys in that old musical, "Oliver!" And that is what Gill and I are going to have to do next—get to know you. We started last Monday at our licensing—and may we just thank everyone who worked so hard to make that a lovely evening, especially the churchwardens who put hours and hours into getting things ready. Many people have worked extremely hard during the interregnum and we thank you all.

Our aims for the next three months include:

- 1—Getting to know all of you who regularly worship in our church by name.
- 2—Trying to visit as many as possible of you at home.
- 3—Finding out where God has been at work in each person and in your life together as a church. Maybe there will be things to pray about together and things to praise Him for.
- 4—Finding out what God is doing now. All of us are called by baptism to be His fellow-workers, and we need to find out where He is now at work—so we turn up at the right place at the right time!
- 5—Finding out what He wants to do in this parish in the future—and what your gifts are. This is a process that will involve listening to you, listening to God in prayer, and listening to each other in the P.C.C., as together we discern His will for the future.

But first Gill and I are looking forward to getting to know you, and I hope you are too. I hope we will also find ourselves

"Getting to like you, getting to know you like us"

Yours in His love,
Geoff and Gill

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 2nd

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Sunday, November 9th

- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. No evening service—confirmation at Arley.

Sunday, November 16th

- 10.30 a.m. Baptisms.
- 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Friday, November 21st

- 7.30 p.m. "Gift Wrapping with a difference."

Sunday, November 23rd

- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Sunday, November 30th

- 10.30 a.m. Morning Service.
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

There will be no evening service at St. Laurence, Ansley, on 9th November, as we are invited to join the rest of the Ley Group for the Confirmation Service at Arley.

Sunday Church Bus Timetable for 6.30 p.m. Evening Service

Ansley Village turn 6.00 p.m.

Ansley Common St. John's 6.20 p.m.

Return Journey from Parish Church 7.45 p.m.

Ansley Village Young People's Club: 3rd and 17th November, 7.00 to 8.00 p.m.

Fellowship Meetings: 5th and 19th November, 8.00 p.m.

St. John's Services: 9th and 23rd November.

St. John's Children's Club: Every Tuesday, 6.30 to 7.30 p.m.

To book St. John's Hall: Contact Pat Barnes, 69 Ansley Common.

Sponsored Hymn Sing: 2nd November, after Morning Service.

Answers to October Quiz:

- 1—You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.
- 2—Moon river, wider than a mile,
- 3—Twenty tiny fingers, twenty tiny toes.
- 4—They tried to tell us we're too young.
- 5—We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when,
- 6—Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and smile, smile, smile.
- 7—Smile though your heart is aching.
- 8—When you walk through a storm hold your head up high.
- 9—Oh what a beautiful morning.
- 10—In a shady nook,

On November 12th there is to be an open meeting in the Village Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. This is to try and ascertain if the people would like to try to make something of the year 2000. My thoughts at the moment are to re-enact the History of Ansley along the lines of the Pageant of 1966, I see this as an opportunity for all sections of the Parish of Ansley to join together to produce something enjoyable and memorable some time in the Summer of this very special year.

Margaret Antill

All ladies in the Parish are welcome on 21st November at 'Gift Wrapping with a difference,' a Women's Christian Viewpoint meeting. Our speaker, Bernadette Nunnely, will demonstrate the skills of transforming even the simplest of items into unique personalised gifts to be treasured, combined with a gentle Christmas message. This promises to be an interesting and enjoyable evening, and there will also be light refreshments. Tickets price £1.50, available from Joyce Allton and Barbara Lowe.

Children's Society Box Opening and Coffee Evening. On Thursday, November 13th there will be a coffee evening at 33 Nuthurst Crescent, Ansley, in support of the Children's Society. For the many who collect regularly over the year in their boxes, I would once again like to say "thank you." Please bring your box along to be opened and counted. If you are unable to come could you please leave your box in church as I will collect it or ring me Tel.: 395674.

Thank you for your continued support,

Margaret Oliver.

St. John's Over 50's "Garden Party" was held outside St. John's Hall on September 27th in glorious sunshine. Rev. and Mrs. Kimber opened the event and took the opportunity to meet quite a few people. £175 was raised at a very enjoyable, well attended event.

We would like to express our grateful thanks to all who helped in so many ways before, during and after the Service on the 20th October, both at the Church and the Hall. This enabled us to give a warm welcome to our congregation and to launch the new ministry of Gill and Geoff in such a fitting way.

Many thanks, George Ponder, Margaret Antill.

November Quiz: "The Saints"

- 1—Which Saint charmed the snakes from Ireland.
- 2—Slew the dragon.
- 3—Is portrayed carrying someone on his back.
- 4—Patron Saint of Children.
- 5—First Bishop of the Church of Rome.
- 6—First Archbishop of Canterbury.
- 7—Patron Saint of France.
- 8—A lady Saint particularly associated with music.
- 9—Patron Saint of Wales.
- 10—The peasant girl, who then led armies and died by fire.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

We all enjoyed the Baptism Service on 5th October, taken by Gill Kimber, when 4 babies were baptised. It was refreshing and encouraging to see the church almost full and we welcome into the family of the church: Luke David John Hewitt, Liam Thomas James Hewitt, Lewis Dexter, all of Ansley Village, and Sian Louise Smith from Birchley Heath. May God bless you and keep you all your days.

Ashes Interred: The ashes of Mrs. Hilda Moseley were interred in the churchyard. Mrs. Moseley, aged 91 years, was very well known in Ansley Village. She regularly attended Evensong for many years before moving to a care home.

Burials: George Deeming, aged 76 years, who was born and brought up in Birchley Heath before moving to Hartshill. He served in the Forces and later worked in the coal mines.

Mrs. Sandra (Jacky) Brandrick, aged 51 years, a well known and loved member of the community in Birchley Heath.

We remember their families at this time.

May God be near them in their sorrow.