

# 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 (Half-time):**

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 541105

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## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Arley Rectory  
Coventry CV7 8RD

01676 540378

Dear Friends,

'She looked a vision of loveliness!' people might say of a bride as she walked down the aisle. Or how about 'do not adjust the vision on your television set'—and you just have to wait until the picture returns to normal.

For a long time now the PCC has been working on a **vision for Ansley**, and the first question to ask was 'why bother to have one?'

It has been truly said that if we aim at nothing, then we shall hit it. We do not want to aim at nothing, but to take seriously our calling to be Christ's Body here, and to find out what God wants us to aim for. What does He want to do through us? What are we already doing? Should we make any changes? Do we have aims, and are we agreed on them?

Bishop Simon had challenged all the parishes in the diocese to ask themselves these questions in order to make our ministry more accountable. No more drifting along in a haze! It was time to adjust the vision control knob and sharpen up the picture. As clergy we are now asked what vision our parishes have, and how we are getting on with it.

We have looked at five areas of church life:

- 1—**ROOTED IN CHRIST.** How are we rooted in Him? How do we grow deeper roots? What is our worship like? How is our prayer life?
- 2—**LIFE TOGETHER.** How do we get on together? How do we tackle the responsibilities that God gives us, of looking after our buildings? What are our financial aims?
- 3—**MINISTRY TOGETHER.** What are our gifts? God gives them to us for a purpose. How are we using them?
- 4—**WITNESS IN THE WORLD.** What are we like, Monday to Friday, when we are at work or at home and away from church? What does it mean to be a Christian in everyday life?
- 5—**WITNESS TO THE WORLD.** Jesus commands us to share the good news about himself. What is the best way of doing so?

Bit by bit in PCC we have discussed all of this, and have come up with agreed statements under each heading. If you would like to see the whole vision statement, it is on a leaflet and you are welcome to ask for a copy.

Finally we agreed an overall statement, and here is our vision for the church family in Ansley:

- to worship and love God,
- to share the Good News of Jesus in word and deed,
- to meet the needs of others with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray that God will help us. We want the vision he is giving us to become a practical reality.

In his love,  
Gill and Geoff.



## **SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER**

**Theme for the month: Prayer**

There will be one service at St. John's Hall this month, at 10.15 a.m. on November 28th. We shall have a **joint service at St. Laurence on November 14th at 10.30 a.m. for Remembrance Sunday.**

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

November 7—am Family Service,  
pm Traditional Holy Communion.

**There will be a presentation of the PCC Vision work at both these services.**

November 14—am **Remembrance Sunday service**, with a 2 minute silence. At the end of the service there will be a procession to the War Memorial for the laying of wreaths.

pm Traditional Evensong.

November 21—am Morning Prayer.

6pm We join St. Mary's Fillongley for the Ley Group  
**Confirmation service.**

November 28—am Holy Communion for Advent Sunday.

pm Traditional Evensong.

**Mid-week services:** Tuesday, November 2nd 9.30 a.m. at St. John's: Holy Communion, followed by home Communions.

Tuesday, November 16th 9.30 a.m. in Village Church Hall: Shorter Morning Prayer followed by the regular Senior Citizens' meeting. May I say how lovely it is that so many manage to get along to this little service, to worship and pray and sing favourite hymns. I often feel God's presence with us, and it is certainly one of the highlights of the month!

## **REGULAR EVENTS**

Every Monday in the village church hall at 7.00 p.m.: -LINKS children's club for 7-11's.

November 8th and every other Monday in Ansley Common: Monday fellowship group meets at 7.00 p.m., when we shall continue a romp through the Old Testament!

November 3rd and fortnightly at 10 Nuthurst Crescent: Wednesday fellowship group continues to ponder St. Peter's first letter and its message—'Don't Give In!'

Wednesday, November 3rd at 1.00 p.m. and monthly at the Watts': Prayer for the church and the world.

Every Tuesday in the village hall at 10.00 a.m.: Senior Citizens.

Every Tuesday evening in the village hall: Youth Club.

Every Wednesday evening in the village hall: MIND meeting.

Every Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. in St. John's: Over 50's.

Every Wednesday evening in St. John's: Youth Club.

Every Thursday 3-6 p.m. in St. John's: Drop-in centre for those aged 16-25 years. Help and information available confidentially and free on a wide variety of subjects.

—If you hold a regular event in the village and would like to include it here, please let Marie Cove know the details.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Thursday, November 4th at 7.45 p.m.: PCC in Ansley village.

Thursday, November 11th at 7.30 p.m. in the church: There will be an illustrated talk on English church architecture by Bob Meeson. Tickets are £3 and include light refreshments, available from Margaret Antill. Margaret has been to a similar talk before, and found it fascinating.

Sunday, November 21st at 6.00 p.m. Evening Confirmation service at Fillongley with Bishop Colin. Please remember our confirmees, Hetty Sharman and Joyce Lomas, in your prayers.

Monday, November 22nd at 1.30 p.m.: Churchwadrens' meeting at the Rectory.

Children's Society Coffee Evening: There will be a coffee evening on Thursday, November 18th at 7.30 p.m. at 33 Nuthurst Crescent. Please bring along any Children's Society boxes for opening. Everyone welcome for coffee, cake and a chat. Margaret Oliver.

Wednesday, November 24th at 7.30 p.m.: LINKS leaders meet at 135 Tunnel Road.

The Silver Anniversary of the present Sunday School was a lively affair, with Martin Green explaining to us that we need the Holy Spirit to live the sort of life Jesus wants. He also turned out to be an accomplished guitarist! The youngsters did a sketch which brought the parable of the Good Samaritan right up to date—the parable of the Good Punk Rocker, and Amy Parr as the Punk was a sight to behold. The Sunday School announced that they now wished to be known as 'Junior Church'—and Marie read out a letter from the Rev. Stan Marriott, recalling the time when he needed persuading that a Sunday School was a good idea! Well done to the young people—and thanks to the leaders over many years.

Harvest this year has again been very enjoyable. Many thanks to all those who donated produce and decorated and cleaned the church. It looked lovely and colourful for Bishop Colin's visit. Most of us will remember his sermon for a long time, if only for his wish that when he goes to the supermarket he gets a trolley without wobbly wheels! He gave us 3 R's for harvest:

Rejoice in your blessings

Remember God as the one who gives them to you

Repent of your greed: we are on slimming diets when so much of the world goes hungry.

### **MANY MORE THANKS!**

Thank you to the team who cleared the church, and especially to Norman Tomlinson who has found his vocation as an auctioneer! The sale realized £151.30 for church funds. Thank you to those who came and bid for some high-quality produce.

Thank you to all who have given so generously to the Church Gift Day. The total to date is £459.56 and it is still coming in, for church funds.

Thank you also to the church Social Committee, who so ably provided a delicious Harvest Supper at which we were entertained by magician Colin Brown. A surplus of £41.50 raised from the raffle will go to the churchyard fund.

Dave Cove's plant sales realized £50.67 towards the St. John's hall ramp fund.

Mollie Arnold's coffee morning to raise money for the Macmillan Nurses realized a magnificent £200. Congratulations to you all.

Jean Wakeford-Davy's sponsored walk for St. John's ramp has raised to date £90+. Well done to the fit and hardy, who completed the six miles!

Coffee Morning at Wood Barn Farm raised £105 for Ramp Fund.

We praise God for people's generosity and for his provision for us. Now He asks us to give to those overseas who are less fortunate than ourselves, through Tear Fund. Envelopes were available on Tear Fund Sunday; if you missed out and would like to make a donation, please ask.

Congratulations to the exhausted Commoners, who have entertained us with '77 Sunset Strip!' It was great fun and included a chip butty and a game of bingo. Donations were made to the ramp fund: well worth all the hard work involved and including plenty of laughs. When's the next one?

More news from PCC: recently we agreed that we would offer laying on of hands and healing prayer at a Communion service every other month. This is done very simply immediately after people have received their Communion. You are invited to stay at the altar rail, and there are no awkward personal questions! It is entirely a person's choice to receive prayer or not, and is done without embarrassment. All are welcome. Miracles may be a long time coming, but prayer is never wasted. God can use it for our healing in all sorts of ways, and you never know what the Holy Spirit will do.

Gill Kimber.

#### **FROM THE REGISTER**

Our sympathy and prayers go to the family of Frederick Watson, aged 75 of 13 Bretts Hall Estate.

Also to Geoff and Barbara Lowe, on the loss of Geoff's aunt, Nora Plackett, who lived in Coton.

**Flower Festival Puzzle Answers:** 1. Hyacinth; 2. Violet; 3. Foxglove; 4. Ragged Robin; 5. Lily of the Valley; 6. Iris; 7. Viola; 8. Anemone; 9. Love in a Mist; 10. Snowdrop; 11. Sweet Pea; 12. Hollyhock; 13. Mare's Tail; 14. Marigold; 15. Catmint; 16. Stock; 17. Bluebell; 18. Orchid; 19. Clover; 20. Monkshood; 21. London Pride; 22. Mint; 23. Honesty; 24. Coltsfoot; 25. Snapdragon; 26. Selfheal; 27. Primrose; 28. Tulip; 29. Cranesbill; 30. Carnation.

Two entrants (Barbara Lowe & Nancy Bradley) had just one error. Each gave an answer which, in the opinion of the judges, was a very acceptable alternative and they shared the prize. Thanks to all who participated, raising just over £40 for the Flower Festival Funds.