

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

The other day I got lost when I was out driving—something that happens to me from time to time! Finding a quiet spot, I drew up and unfolded my map. I was able to work out where I had gone wrong, and what to do in order to go the right way. So all was well.

As a church, we sometimes have the same problem. Every so often we need to stop and think about our direction. Where are we heading? Do we know? How are we going to get there? What are our priorities? And—most important of all—are they God's priorities?

A year ago the PCC completed our vision statement, a detailed document in which we looked at every aspect of church life and asked ourselves those questions. What, as a church, do we think is most important? You may remember we summed it up as follows:

- 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.

I am delighted to say that we have implemented all the decisions we made. But here we are, a year later, and it is important for us to draw up at the side of the road, get out the map and ask ourselves again, 'Are we still heading God's way?

We have an excellent opportunity to do that this month. Robert Warren, who was until recently the Archbishop's Advisor on evangelism, is coming to Coventry and Bishop Colin has asked us all to attend some training days with him. A group of us are going from Ansley, to see what we can learn, to look at our strengths and weaknesses, and to gain some ideas so that God's church keeps moving in God's direction.

Please pray that we will not just settle down in a rut, unable to see the wood for the trees. Ask God to renew our vision as a church, so that we may make a good partnership between his love and our willingness to serve him and each other.

With your prayers, and our thinking hats on, we will be sure we are—
— going God's way.

In His love,
Gill and Geoff.

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER Theme: Our lives in God's hands
At St. John's Hall, Ansley Common there is one service this month, on November 26th at 10.15 a.m., which will be Holy Communion by Extension.

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

November 5—a.m. All-age worship with baptism.

p.m. Traditional Holy Communion.

November 12—a.m. **Service for Remembrance Sunday.**

p.m. Traditional Evensong.

November 19—a.m. Morning Prayer and Baptism.

p.m. **Confirmation Service for Ley Group: with Bishop Colin.**

November 26—a.m. Holy Communion. Guest speakers morning and evening: Duncan and Helen Watts.

p.m. Traditional Evensong.

Mid-week service: Tuesday, 14th November, 9.30 a.m. in the church hall.

NOVEMBER DIARY

Wednesdays 1st, 15th and 29th November: Wednesday Fellowship at 7.30 p.m., 24 Nuthurst Crescent.

Mondays 6th November every week at 7.00 p.m.: LINKS Children's Club.

Mondays 6th and 20th November at 7.30 p.m.: Ansley Common Fellowship at 1 Nursery Road.

Tuesday, 7th November 7.30 p.m.: Morning Worship team at the Rectory.

Thursday, 9th November: **Coffee evening** at Margaret Oliver's house, 33 Nuthurst Crescent, in aid of **Spurgeon's Child Care**. All welcome.

Thursday, 16th November: calling all ladies! Anne Hibbert is coming to do a special presentation called 'Colour, Beauty and You' at 7.30 p.m., in the church hall. Anne is a 'Rev' but that does not stop her from having an interest in fashion . . . She will give a demonstration on how to discover which colours suit you best! She will also talk about her faith. This is an event for everyone: please bring along friends, neighbours and families. Tickets £3 to include a glass of wine.

Saturday 18th and Tuesday 21st (see Newsletter): 2 days with Canon Robert Warren on 'Growing Healthy Churches.'

Wednesday, 22nd November 2.00 p.m.: Prayer group meets.

Thursday, 23rd November 7.45 p.m. in church hall: PCC.

Sunday, 26th November: Duncan and Helen Watts will be speaking on their placement this summer in Kyrgystan, which was part of their training for missionary work.

November 29th: I would be grateful for your prayers as Rev. Andrew Wadsworth, Rev. Elizabeth Dyke and I meet again to discuss the formation of our deanery lay training course. It is our hope that this will benefit all our churches in offering practical training for church members in their many tasks.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Our prayers and sympathy go to 'Paddy' Palmer of 17 St. Lawrence's Road and his family on the loss of Betty at the age of 71.

Also to Judy Wood, who buried her mother's ashes in the family grave in October. Barbara Shields had been brought up in Ansley Common.

Thank you to all those who, once again, put in time and talents well beyond the call of duty to ensure that our harvest thanksgiving went so well, and who decorated both the church and St. John's Hall for its first harvest in many years. A particular thanks to Margaret Kimberley and the social committee for a very well-organised, enjoyable harvest supper—and to Jane and Lorna for adding to the enjoyment with their musical talent.

We welcome baby Thomas Mason into God's family through baptism this month. Congratulations to Hazel and Richard. We also welcome George Morewood for his Baptism and congratulate Andrew and Nicola.

Please also pray for our candidates, Alison Smedley, Stephen and Sallie Antill and Phil Rees, as they prepare for Ley Group Confirmation this month which will be in St. Laurence's.

NEWS ON HALIMA

For 10 years members of the church have been supporting a Kenyan girl called Halima through the Christian relief agency of Tear Fund. Your gifts have enabled Halima to buy her school books, clothes and medicine, which would otherwise have been very difficult for her family, as her mother is widowed. Halima has now finished her schooling and a tailoring course, and at the age of 18 is able to find employment to support her family. We send her every good wish.

The PCC have therefore decided that all three congregations will continue to support Tear Fund, and specifically their 'Children at Risk' scheme. Tear Fund works with Christian agencies overseas to help children who have been orphaned through war, famine or Aids, providing a home, education and love. To play our part in this essential work, we will be putting out a Tear Fund box each month for donations, as well as organising other fundraising activities. For more information, please contact Bill Watts on 024 7639 7654.

A MESSAGE FROM RAY HOBBS!—who sends his love to everyone and his thanks for all the cards, letters, phone calls, visits, prayers and support. He is continuing to make slow progress.

Hurry back Ray—we need someone else to blame when things go wrong! Gill Kimber.

Once again the Flower Festival was very successful with another financial record. Although the number who visited was perhaps a little down, which was probably due to the somewhat unfavourable weather. Even so the marquee was up to the mark and it kept dry inside. The flowers were wonderful, some very unusual varieties were used, and despite the humid conditions, especially on the Friday, they all kept remarkably well.

However it is the wonderful team spirit that comes to the fore at this time each year which is so remarkable with everyone pulling together and giving of their best. As I said to the newspaper I don't think there is any one who knows everyone who is involved in the festival in some way. Everyone is so kind and so very generous in both time and money.

I think the highlight for most was the Sunday evening service when Stan Marriott came and visited us and so many of his old friends were able to come and hear him talk to us again from the pulpit.

The Monday evening finale also was a great success, which was enjoyed by all who came.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped or supported this very happy event.

ANSLEY 2000—The programme prize for No. 120 has still not been claimed, it was sold in church or at Senior Citizens, M. Antill

The cash collections on Harvest Sunday raised £112.87 for 'Youth for Christ.' Thank you for your generosity.

THE CHURCH YARD

For some years now it has been necessary for us to employ someone to cut the grass in the Churchyard. Last year the cost for this was £1300. All this money has to be found and at present is taken from Churchyard reserves. The only income that the Churchyard fund receives is from new headstone fees and donations. If the Churchyard is to be kept to a reasonable standard then additional funds need to be found.

One suggestion is that any one with a loved one buried in the Churchyard may wish to make a regular annual payment of say £10 perhaps by standing order and also use the Gift Aid process. This will enable the church to reclaim the tax on any amount received. If you wish to take up this method of payment please have a word with one of the officers listed on the front of this magazine. Any method or amount of donation would be very much appreciated.

Please rest assured that any money received for the Churchyard will only be used for work in the Churchyard. (This is a requirement of the Charities Act). M. Antill

SPURGEON CHILD CARE COFFEE EVENING. Please come along on Thursday, 9th November at 7.30 p.m., for a coffee evening and bring and buy to 33 Nuthurst Crescent. Collection boxes will be opened and all proceeds sent to Spurgeon's Child Care—a charity helping young and homeless children in our country. Everyone welcome. Margaret Oliver, Tel: 7639 5674.

A letter from Richard Welsh, a Missionary in Borsh, Albania, gives an insight into his Christian work and also includes articles from some of the residents there. There is also an appeal for baby products as they are trying to build up relationships with the mothers and babies by distributing a bag of baby products to each family when a baby is born. As supplies are running low, the following are needed—nappies, cotton wool, baby wipes, baby cream, soap, nappy cream, powder, shampoo, baby bath, scissors, baby bottles, dummies, milk powder, packet food, toys, teething gel, Calpol, Junior Bufren, etc. For more information or how to give contact: Jill Morley, telephone number 01676 540298. Thank you.