

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No. 917

NOVEMBER 2001

Price 25p



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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

One Lord, one faith, one baptism

As I write this I am completing my packing for my trip to Nigeria. Some of you will know that I chair the diocesan task group that heads up the new relationship between our church and the church in Kaduna, Northern Nigeria. As part of this I am going with the bishop and three others to visit the church there. I am going with both hopes and anxieties.

I hope to learn a lot about the situation there now—it's a vibrant, growing church.

I hope to be able to encourage our fellow Christians there.

I hope to get a new vision of what God is doing in his world.

I hope to meet some old friends.

But the anxieties are also there.

Are we going to be safe (about a thousand Christians died in riots last year over the introduction of Shari'a law) ?

Are we going to have a smooth journey—roads, airports, police and military check points can all lead to anxiety ?

Am I going to cope with the heat, the food, the lifestyle that we left 17 years ago ? It's not too far from the equator.

Am I going to know what to say to a suffering church ? What do you say to a bishop who had to watch a mob murder his youth leader ?

Am I going to remember enough of the language ? It's seventeen years since I last had to use Hausa.

I shall be in Nigeria from October 25th to November 16th. Please pray for me and for those I meet—for me for health, strength, safety and that I may encourage and be "a channel of your peace." Please pray also for Gill, running things for three weeks without me around.

Some may ask why go at all—is it just a perk for clergy ? This month's Bible readings are from Acts and are about the ways in which churches in different places and Christians from different backgrounds are one. I am going because I believe we all have

One Lord, one faith, one baptism

In God's love

Geoff and Gill

Services at St. Laurence

November 4—10.30 Family Worship with Baptism,
6.30 Evensong

November 11—10.30 Remembrance Day service,
6.30 Holy Communion (with Nick Clarke).

November 18—10.30 Morning Prayer,
6.30 Service in Arley—United Confirmation service.

November 25—10.30 Holy Communion,
6.30 Evensong.

Service at St. John's at 10.30 on Sunday 11th and 25th

Regular Events:

Mondays at 7.00—Link's Children's Club in Village Hall.

Alternate Mondays 12th and 26th—Ansley Common Fellowship.

Alternate Wednesdays 7th and 21st—Wednesday Fellowship at 10
Nuthurst Crescent.

Other Events this month:

Tuesday 6th—7.30 Worship Team at Rectory.

Thursday 8th—3.00 Prayer Time at Rectory.

Friday 16th—Geoff gets back from Nigeria,

Tuesday 20th—9.30 Senior Citizens' Morning Prayer.

Tuesday 20th—Home Communion.

Thursday 29th—7.45 P.C.C,

From the Registers:

Welcome to John Coulthwaite, baptised in October and to Ben Collins, to be baptised on November 4th,

Bereavements

Our sympathies are with the families of the following who died in October:

October 4—Batey, Cyril; St. Laurence Road, Ansley.

October 9—Barnes, Des; born in Galley Common, lived most of his life in Ansley Common.

Thanks

- To all who helped decorate the church for harvest, organised the harvest sale and the harvest supper, which was enjoyed by all.
- To Pauline and Paul Gaskin for the carpet for the ringing chamber.
- To Margaret Rigby for making the plum and damson jam. You can buy some from Margaret Antill at £1 a jar. If you have any screw top jam jars please give them to Margaret.

Gift Day follow up

At the Gift Day in June many people made promises. It would be helpful if as many as possible of these could be fulfilled by the end of the year. This will enable the building committee to plan and launch further events in the new year. There has been a further £500 in the jar in the last month and we are very grateful to everyone.

The building account now has over £42,000 which is 60% of the estimated cost. As was said at the flower festival it is hoped that this new room and toilets will be a reality for the 2002 flower festival.

The Harvest Supper on Wednesday, 17th October went very well and the entertainers were superb. Due to the fact that the sweets were donated, also raffle prizes and guest meals, etc., there was a profit of £91 for general church funds.

SPURGEON CHILD CARE EVENING: Please come along on Thursday, 15th November at 7.30 p.m. to 33 Nuthurst Crescent. Collecting boxes will be emptied and there will be a Bring and Buy. Everyone is very welcome for coffee and cake and all proceeds will go to Spurgeon Child Care. Thank you for your continued support. Margaret Oliver. Tel: 7639 5674.

The Tear Fund collections for September and October amounted to £25.57.

'Our Daily Bread' Bible Notes will no longer be delivered. Have you sent off your application form in the latest notes to order?

Mandy.

EDITORIAL

November 2001

November already and the shops are full of Christmas goodies. It seems that this year has gone by in a flash. As a child I thought November was a very dreary month as we had only the winter to look forward to, but also we had lots of thick fogs and it was very cold. The fog was so dense one evening that when I got off the bus from work I couldn't see where the path finished and the road started. It was very scary. Now with the introduction of cleaner air (or is supposed to be cleaner), we have almost got rid of the fog and smog, but of course not entirely.

Did you know this year has not only been a bumper year for fruit but also for conkers? Yes, children still love playing conkers and dads and grand-dads can be amused for hours making the holes and putting the string through, not to mention the pleasure of finding and collecting them. This is a game which has survived through many generations but I don't know why it was called conkers, except it could be derived from conquer. Well the aim is to beat your opponent by smashing his conker, and so become the conqueror.

My grand-daughter asked me the other day if I had a map of Europe. Well, I had, but it was not very accurate as the world has changed so much. I always wanted a globe of the world but if I looked at the globe of today and the one we had at school, what a different world it is now. The continent of Africa has so many countries with unfamiliar names to our Geography lessons, as well as Asia. Even the counties of England and Wales have changed to some extent. When on holiday in August I saw a globe of the world for sale in a toy shop and was tempted to fulfil my ambition of owning one, but I couldn't help wondering how long it would be before it was outdated, so I resisted the temptation.

In a large department store in Coventry recently I was amazed at the huge number of cosmetic and perfume counters there were, including men's toiletries, and the prices were astronomical. However, at one counter only my daughter and I were given a free perfume sample of an expensive brand, a sample of anti-wrinkle cream and two sachets of eye rejuvenating cream. It makes you wonder if they wouldn't be better putting the prices down than giving away free samples. I will let you know if I have any dramatic affects from the cream, but I think it will take more than a couple of free samples.

A quote from veteran comedian Bob Hope, "A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it." Very true don't you think?

Marie Cove.