

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1089

NOVEMBER 2016

Price 30p



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Renewal and Reform – My Chains fell off by Mike Eastwood, abridged by D. Kealey.

In Renewal and Reform Mike writes that we are constantly challenged by this question. How do all God's people discover their vocation; how do all God's people confidently live out God's call on their lives? This is often presented as a question of empowerment – how do we empower 'the laity' or 'parishes'; or even how do we empower bishops?

Mike Eastwood finds the word 'empowerment' to be patronising, implying that he can't do something unless someone else shows or lets him. He is ready to learn from others, but thinks relationships should be based on mutuality rather than on allowing (empowering) another to do something they are clearly capable of doing.

Also, conversely, he says, it potentially lets him off the hook. If it's up to someone else to empower him then until they have done that then he's OK. It's not his responsibility. He is unempowered.

In the church there is a lot of talk about empowerment. Mike doesn't have an issue with the hope that as an 'empowered' person he is better able to use the gifts he has in Christ's service. But he does want to challenge the notion that in some way as a layperson in the Church of England it's up to other people to empower him, that in some way it's his vicar's fault that he is being held back, that he'd be able to change the world if only 'they' would let him.

He much prefer to talk in terms of release, about what we can do to take away barriers or constraints so that people are free to use the gifts and talents God has given them in God's service. The barrier may be in the person's head – whether this is a lack of confidence, or an assumption that they won't be able to do it or that they won't be able to do it well enough.

Sometimes the constraint may be the person who is not prepared to recognise, to value, to enjoy the gifts in others.

If each of us can see God at work in our lives in the 5,000 waking hours we have a year Monday to Saturday as much as we can in the 150 hours a year in church on a Sunday; if each of us could see that the transformation of our communities is inextricably linked with the choices that we make- we could each make a real difference. And if we can release all God's people to be fulfilled and active in His service then who knows what we will be able to do.

If every member of the body of Christ is confident in the gifts God has given each of us, is confident of the richness of God's grace, if confident that in our weakness God's strength is made perfect, then we can collectively be a transforming presence in our homes, our communities, our workplaces, our social spaces and way, way beyond.

November St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 6 th	3 before Advent	10.30 a.m.	Kingdom [Screen]
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	Remembrance	10.30 a.m.	Special Service
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20 th	Christ the King	10.30 a.m.	Kingdom [Screen]
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th	Advent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 6 th	3 before Advent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 13 th	Remembrance	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St Laurence
Sunday 20 th	Christ the King	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 27 th	Advent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Please note

During the interregnum it may be necessary to change the pattern of services from time to time at fairly short notice. This would be to enable visiting clergy to hold a communion service.

From the Registers

Baptisms

Tobie David Hornsby celebrated his baptism on 25th September, supported by his parents, Christopher and Rachel, his Godparents, family and friends.

At the same service Elyana Claire Alison Russell celebrated her baptism, surrounded by her parents, Wayne and Sally, her Godparents, family and friends.

These baptisms were conducted by the Reverend Heather Barnes.

Isaac Harry Barsby celebrated his baptism on 2nd October, attended by his parents, Ian and Claire, his Godparents, family and friends.

This baptism was conducted by the Reverend Greg Bartlem.

We ask for God's blessing on each of these children as they step out on the path of faith and on their parents who will encourage and support them.

Wedding

The wedding of Jodene Foxon and Patrick Mahony took place on Saturday 15th October.

The Reverend Ian Kennedy officiated at this service.

We pray that Jodene and Patrick will enjoy much happiness in their marriage and will support each other through good and difficult times.

Reminder - Remembrance Sunday Joint Service

Ansley St Laurence will be welcoming Ansley Common members to a service of Remembrance on Sunday 13th November. There will be no service at Ansley Common on that day.

Spurgeon Coffee Evening & Bring & Buy

Please come along and join us for tea, cakes and a chat at 33, Nuthurst Crescent on Wednesday 16th November at 7.30 p.m. Donations collected over the year will be counted and sent to Spurgeon. The charity works in this country to help disadvantaged children, whatever their needs. There will also be a 'Bring and buy' table. I look forward to seeing you and would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Margaret Oliver. [Telephone 02476395674]

St John's Christmas Fayre

You are warmly invited to this event on Saturday 26th November from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. in St John's Hall. A range of stalls, including cake, bric a brac, pickles, knitted goods, raffle and games will be set out, with tea and coffee available and a chance to chat.

Preparation of Christmas Trees

Your help would be greatly appreciated with filling buckets and placing Christmas trees around church from lunchtime on Monday 28th November. If you would like to decorate a tree please ask for a form from a church member and return it as soon as possible.

Advance Notices

St Laurence's Christmas Festive Fun

Please come along to a relaxed evening in Ansley Village Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 9th December. There will be free entry with a door prize, bran tub, bric a brac stall, bingo and puzzles. Light refreshments will be available, there will be carol singing and the prizes for the Christmas Raffle will be drawn.

St Laurence's 11th Christmas Tree Festival

Do visit the church during the Christmas Tree Festival and bring along family and friends! The church will be open to visitors on the weekends of 3rd and 4th, 10th and 11th plus 17th and 18th December. Entry costs £2.00 per person, with accompanied children under 12 free. Decorating will take place on Wednesday 30th November and Thursday 1st December from 2.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Proceeds will be given to the church with 15% of takings going to the Mary Ann Evan's Hospice.

A donation of £1 towards the cost of mowing the churchyard is requested if you wish to place a star with the name of a loved one onto the 'Memory Tree'. You may wish to light a candle too. A 'Prayer Tree' will also be in church. Peg your prayer to the tree and it will be included in our intercessions.

If an organisation or group would like to arrange a visit on a week day please contact Margaret Antill on 01827 874520.

Throughout the weekends there will be tea, coffee, hot chocolate, small cakes and mince pies available in the annexe and also a raffle for a fruit Christmas cake.

The 60 trees, decorated by organisations, groups and individuals from the local community, are spectacular. What a wonderful way to add to your Christmas celebrations.

St John's Bingo Evening

The next session will be on Monday 5th December at 7.00 p.m. in the hall.

Harvest at St Laurence's Report

We are sorry that the 8.00 a.m. service was not able to be held this year and hope very much that it can be re-instated next year. We were very pleased to be able to hand over cheques of £412.50 each from the flower festival takings to representatives from Acorn Children's Hospice and the George Eliot Hospital League of Friends during our morning and evening services.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our harvest celebrations, by attending the services, donating produce, decorating the church, moving gifts to the annexe and coming to the Harvest Supper and auction. £85 was raised for the church from the auction of produce, a small amount from the supper surplus and over £100 from the sale of fruit in the churchyard prior to the event. Some imperishable food items were donated to the local food bank.

St John's Bingo

The Bingo session on Monday 26th September made £50 for hall funds and provided an enjoyable evening.

St John's Hallowe'en Social

Report next month.

Operation Christmas Child – Samaritan's Purse

Shoe boxes containing suggested gifts should be brought to church by 13th November if they are to reach our local collection centre in time for distribution this year.

Out Now: Morning and Evening Prayer

Common Worship: Morning and Evening Prayer contains everything an individual needs for their personal prayer at each end of the day. Derived from Common Worship: Daily Prayer, short readings, psalms and orders that change through the week and with the Christian year are all included.

"A discipline of prayer changes the way that we think about our lives through creating new habits of heart and mind," says Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter and Chair of the Liturgical Commission. "It opens us more deeply to the transforming grace of God. Common Worship: Morning and Evening Prayer provides a framework for this enterprise of grace." ISBN 978 0 71512315 7 £12.99 from www.chpublishing.co.uk or Christian booksellers.

[Extract from Coventry Diocese Bulletin In Focus]

Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services, both at St. Laurence's and at St. John's, please hand the slip below to a member of the church congregation or contact a warden. Phone numbers are on the front page of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring.

Please pray for who is

November, 2016

They say you are never too old to learn, and I certainly can bear this out, as only recently after marvelling at a beautiful rainbow, I was surprised to learn there is such a thing as a 'Moonbow'. There was a photograph sent in to the news programme, and these moonbows are caused by the light of the moon. You live and learn, and I wish I could see one for myself.

There is a debate at present about the benefits or not of homework. One head teacher thought it was good but worried that many children hadn't the right environment at home or encouragement from their parents. This reminded me of when I was at senior school and we were set homework five nights a week, 2 subjects (sometimes 3) and told you were to spend at least 30 minutes per subject but no more. I had no option but to get down to it and whereas most children now have centrally heated homes, we had one coal fire but because there were so many of us, we had to do homework at a rickety old table in the veranda which was really cold. In fact I not only had chilblains on my feet, I had them on my hands, but after saying that, doing homework and swotting for exams really got me through to attain more than I or the teachers thought I could.

I have a book called 'Brain Teasers' and it is hilarious. There were all these household functions from the past. One was a fly catcher and they advised putting sweet cloves in bags made of mosquito netting and hanging them round the room or a sprinkle of oil of lavender or lavender buds. That sounds not too bad but the worst was to boil onions in a quantity of water and wash picture frames, mouldings and woodwork with the concoction. Can you just imagine the smell!

Autumn is with us, the nights draw in.
Curtains closed early making us cosy within.
The leaves continue to slowly fall;
Time to feed the birds one and all.
Hurray for Autumn, hurray we say,
As we enjoy late sunshine many a day.
The trees make bowers of rust, yellow and gold
Leaving scenes which never grow old.

Marie Cove