

# **Church of St. Laurence Magazine**

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

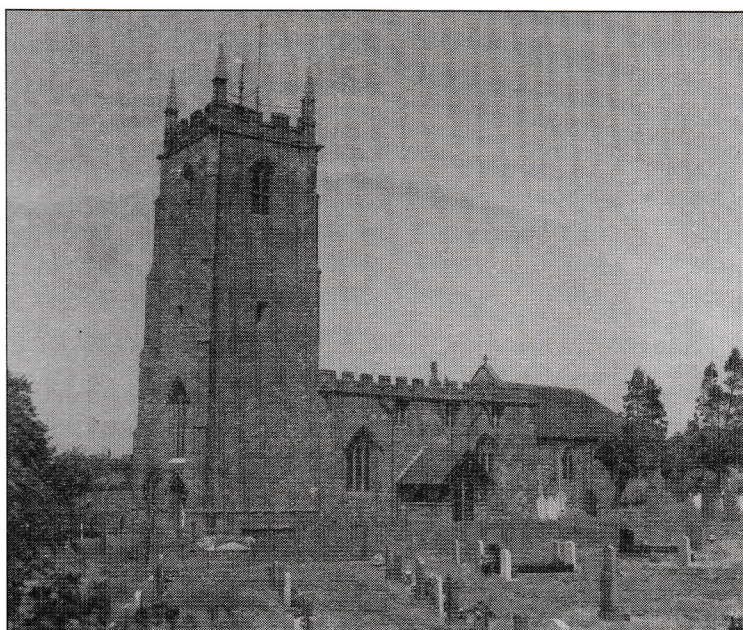
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# EDITORIAL

1st January, 2003

Christmas is over for another year. 2003 has dawned and everything feels exactly the same. I always think making New Year's Resolutions is a waste of time as very few are ever kept, but perhaps we could have a genie who would grant us 3 wishes. What would they be? I would wish for World Peace which would solve all the problems of poverty, famine and greed. My second wish would be for a cure for cancer, as this causes so much heartache, pain and grief. My third wish would be for a World Wide revival of the Christian Faith to spread love throughout the world.

Well, we don't believe in Genies in children's stories, but there is a greater power-the power of prayer. During the 2nd World War, the allied troops had their backs to the wall; Hitler was winning hands down and our troops had just retreated from Dunkirk. This Country was expecting the inevitable-the invasion of England. Then king George VI called for a National Day of Prayer and on that day people all over this country attended church and prayed for victory. Then God's answer came-there was no invasion and the tide turned as the British started to secure victories. Just a coincidence? I don't think so.

From the beginning of time life has been a sequence of ups and downs, with wars and rumours of war. This year of 2003 is no different, as young men and women are asked to lay their lives on the line. Perhaps we should also have a National Day of Prayer, to ask God to guide the powerful men of this world to meet in peace and solve their problems, so that we can look forward with renewed hope for the future.

A one time U.S.A President, Jimmy Carter, (who is in his late 70's) has recently been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his tireless efforts for World Peace. Let us join our hearts and voices with him in prayer for the beginning of a new age of peace and reconciliation in 2003

Every good wish for you, your family and friends this New Year

Marie Cove



If you require the services of a vicar please have a word with Moreen who is dealing with baptisms and Margaret weddings. Funerals can be arranged with either.

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services 10.30 a.m.  
Jan 12th Epiphany 1 Family Service.  
Jan 26th Epiphany 2 Holy Communion and Sunday School.

St Laurence's Church Services 10.30 a.m. & 6.30. p.m.  
Jan 5th 2nd after Christmas a.m. Holy Baptism Rev D. Jupe.  
p.m. BCP Holy Communion Rev L. Beard.  
Jan 12th Epiphany 1 a.m. Holy Communion and Junior Church.  
p.m. Memorial Service Rev. E. Pogmore.  
Jan 19th Epiphany 2 a.m. All age Worship with the Worship Team.  
p.m. Holy Communion Rev. Nick Clarke.  
Jan 26th Epiphany 3 a.m. The Lord is Here Communion and Junior Church.

p.m. Evensong a Lay Reader .

Morning Prayer on Tuesday 14th at 9.30 a.m. in the Village Church Hall. The Senior Citizens meeting follows, everyone is welcome to this service. The Ansley Common Fellowship meets on Monday 6th and 20th The Wednesday Fellowship group meet on the 15th & 29th The inks youth club meet on Monday 13th following their Christmas break and will meet eac Monday in the Village Church Hall. The visiting team meeting to be arranged. The P.C.C. meet in Thursday 16th.

At the Confirmation on the 24th November we had two candidates, they were Barbara Payne and Sandra Northall. The service at Corley Church was well attended and Ansley was well represented. Bishop Anthony along with all those present, prayed and wished all candidates a life long experience of God in their lives. Both our candidates were extremely happy and moved by the event.

#### **The Christmas Event**

Many, many thanks to all who worked so hard to make Friday 6th December such a lovely evening it was enjoyable and entertaining and the mince pies "moreish". At the time of going to press the amount raised was £1023.50. with still half the money for the wreaths to come in. Thank you to all who supported this event in any way.

#### **Alter flowers and brasses.**

At the start of this new year we will be compiling a new list of those wishing to arrange the flowers in Church and polish the brasses on a weekly basis. If anyone wishes to do this task for a two week period in the next twelve months, perhaps to coincide with an anniversary or in memory of a loved one please put your name on the list in the porch. Also most welcome are donations for the weekly flowers at any time.

If you had a new mobile phone for Christmas please remember to let the Church have your old one as the Bishop is able to redistribute and each one will raise £30 for Water Aid.

Don't forget that any old postage stamps can be used by collectors and sold for evangelism. Please put them in the box in Church.

#### **Free Will Offering Envelopes.**

The New Year has started and if you use the free will offering envelopes please make sure you have your new ones. If you at anytime wish to know anything about giving regularly and efficiently to the Church, please speak to the Church Wardens or Margaret Kimberley.

The year 2003 has arrived and at long last the new room, which has been under discussion for sometime, is about to become reality. This project was first muted in 1987 and for sometime now fund raising has been high on our agenda. At the November meeting of the P.C.C. it was decided to commence the building work, once clearance was received from the grant organisation who are providing £14,500 towards the cost - thus avoiding the possible increase in building costs. Although we have over 3/4 of the total amount, there is always the last bit to raise, and the P.C.C. at their January meeting will be discussing ways in which to achieve this. So if you have any suggestions, please let them be known, but better still help with the organisation. The P.C.C. are launching this project now in faith, knowing that we have to provide for the disabled and for future generations.

#### **A New Vicar**

We are advised that a new advertisement will be published in the Spring, but in the mean time the job is being circulated around appropriate places where it may be noticed by a suitable applicant. Please continue to remember this position in your prayers.

#### **The Church Yard.**

In the last two months magazines there have been items about the Churchyard. The first about the Health and Safety and the second about things put in the Churchyard which are not in keeping. At the November P.C.C. meeting it was agreed that as from 1st January 2003 all new interments and new and amended memorials are accompanied by an agreement acknowledging responsibilities and requirements. The only new item is that it is now a requirement that new stones are not put on a grave for twelve months, because so many new stones are tipping etc. The rest of the items in the agreements are long standing, but it is apparent that not everyone today is aware of them. These are now in writing and it will avoid any misunderstanding in the future. The local undertakers have been advised of these requirements.

From time to time we are receiving information of training available in the diocese. Some are over a few weeks or months in the evening, some residential and some for a year. Topics covered are also different from Christian Pastoral Care to Embracing Differences. These are diverse and if anyone wishes to pursue training please ask.

#### **Church Lights**

For a long time now the outside light at the end of the Chancel has not been working. During a recent storm the one outside the porch also ceased to work. Both these lights are the originals and the iron work holding the glass has rusted away, they have both been removed, but our electrician is unable to find a suitable replacement that will be in keeping with the Church. One idea is to repair the old ones. This is a specialised welding job, so if anyone knows who could do this type of work please have a word.

The Flower Competition set by Miss May Stain raised £20 towards the Christmas Event and the results are as follows:

Winner: Marie Cove, who received a prize of a Queen Mother 5 coin  
the answers are 1. Harebell, 2. Lily, 3. Phlox, 4. Thrift, 5. Dog Rose,  
6. Snow on the Mount, 7. Poppy, 8. Canterbury Bell, 9. Solomon's Seal,  
10. Euphorbia, 11. Penstemon, 12. Peony, 13. Michaelmas Daisy,  
14. Love in the mist, 15. Pink, 16. Pink, 17. Hosta, 18. Tulips,  
19. Daffodil, 20. Clover, 21. Trollious, 22. Catmint, 23. Flags, 24. Hebe,  
25. Anemone.

After printing our church magazine for many, many years, Newdegate Printers are going out of business, as the Proprietor is taking up a new career, for which we wish him well. We thank them for their service. The new printer from the 1st January 2003 will be Print Centre, also of Attleborough, and we trust the magazine will continue for many years to come.

We would like to thank the person who anonymously gave a cheque for £1000 towards the Building Fund. This is greatly appreciated.

**The Spurgeon Children's Fund:**

The coffee evening/box opening on 21st November resulted in a total of over £200. Thank you to all who attended or sent in boxes  
Margaret Oliver.

Duncan and Helen Watts write:

We have now been in the UK for three weeks and are basing ourselves in Oxford with our supporting church there, while we discuss the events of the last year with a committee of people from the church set up to help us. Stated simply, our return to the UK was because we and our organisation were a bad fit with each other. We are open to the idea of returning to central Asia in the future, but will need to find another organisation with which we are a better fit. As any application process is likely to take a while, it may be at least a year before we go overseas again. We also need to have further discussions with People International in order to bring closure to the last year. We hope to find jobs in the Oxford area in the New Year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support over the last year, financially, in prayer, and by encouraging words. We have really appreciated it. Please continue to lift us up in prayer as we settle back into life in the UK and seek God's will for our future!

I'm starting a Prayer Group, which will be every 2 weeks on Wednesday afternoons beginning 8th January at 2pm at 10, Nuthurst Crescent, everyone welcome  
Mandy Watts.