

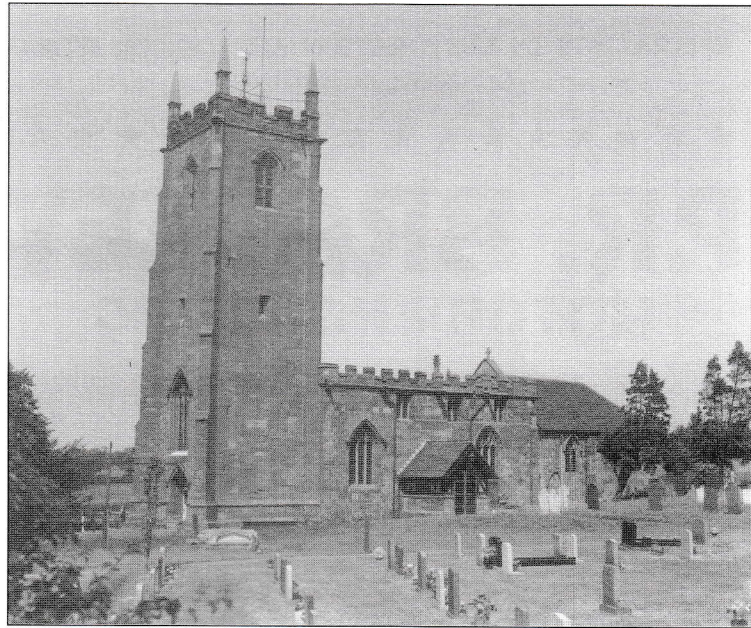
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Hopes and Prayers for 2006

Every New Year brings thoughts of new beginnings – hopes and fears. So I want to share with you what the blessings that I hope we shall all be enjoying when 2006 draws to its close. They come under to headings – service to our community and worshipping our God.

The Servant Church

I am hoping you will join me in prayer for three things:

1. That Ansley Village Church Hall will be extensively refurbished.
2. That the plans for the refurbishment of St. John's Hall will be accepted and a substantial proportion of the money be found for the work which we expect to cost in the region of £200,000
3. That the right person will have been appointed to serve as full-time youth worker in Ansley, Arley and Fillongley and that their work will be beginning to make a difference.

The Worshipping Church

Again there are three items for your prayers:

1. That the Annual Memorial Service at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 29 January and all other special services at St. Laurence and at St. John's bring help and comfort to all who come.
2. That the new all-age worship service at St. Laurence on the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. is greatly appreciated. Starting March 3rd, it will be short and lively and geared towards the needs of children and their families with food to follow.
3. That both churches grow in numbers, in fellowship and in love for God.

Pray also for the churchwardens and P.C.C. members and for the Ministry Leadership Team. Pray for me particularly at this time as I prepare up the additional responsibilities as Area Dean of Nuneaton.

And finally may I wish you all

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR, THROUGHOUT 2006 MAY YOU GROW DAY BY DAY IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S LOVE.

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

January What's On

St. Laurence's Church

Sunday 1 st	Christmas 1	10.30 a.m.	Joint service at St. Wilfrid's Old Arley
□		6.30 p.m.	No service
Sunday 8 th	Epiphany 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Healing Service
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 15 th	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship and Godly Play
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Healing Service
Sunday 22 nd	Epiphany 3	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 29 th	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Joint service at St. John's
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 1 st	Christmas 1	10.30 a.m.	Joint service at St. Wilfrid's Old Arley
Wednesday 4 th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th	Epiphany 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Sunday 15 th	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Wednesday 18 th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	Epiphany 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Special Joint Service

Other Activities at St. John's Church Hall

Monday 16 th	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesdays from 10 th	9.00 – 12.00a.m.	Krazy Kettle Kafé
Tuesdays	7.30 p.m.	Line Dancing
Wednesdays	6.30 p.m.	A.C.Y.C.
Thursday	7.00 p.m.	Youth Club

Activities at Village Church Hall

Mondays from 16 th	7.00 p.m.	Links - Youth Club
Tuesdays from 10 th	10.00 a.m.	Senior Citizens
Wednesdays	10.00 – 11.30 a.m.	Ansley's Little Angels
Wednesdays from 11 th	2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	Community Café
Wednesday 11 th & 25 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo

Other Parish activities

Tuesdays	10.00 a.m.	Family History Class (Annexe)
Thursday 5 th & 19 th	7.30 p.m.	Ansley Common Fellowship
Fridays	1.00 p.m.	Art Classes at the Club

Happy New Year

From the Registers

Baptism

On November 27th Alexandra and Amelia Ashby were baptised Alexandra aged 5 was happy to help pour the water into the font but Amelia at 16 months was not at all sure of the occasion.

Wedding

The marriage of Leslie Haddon and Lisa Smith took place on November 26th. Although the weather was fine it was not very hot and they did not spend a long time in the Church yard taking photographs.

Funerals

The life of Muriel Asbury, born in Ansley as Muriel Paul was celebrated at St. Laurence Church on Thursday 17th November. Brought up in Ansley she was to marry Derek a fellow resident in 1955 at St. Laurence's Church. She had a remarkable sense of humour, both in good times and bad – and a remarkable ability to make everyone she met feel wanted and special. Derek and Muriel spent most of their married life in the home they had built for them in Spring Hill, New Arley. She is mourned by her family and many friends.

The funeral of Ron Beddow took place at St. Laurence on Monday 20th November, Ron loved Ansley where for many years he bred and cared for his pigs at the barn on Manor Farm. Most of his working life was in engineering, but agriculture was always his greatest love. He is deeply mourned by his wife Margaret, his family and friends.

On Monday 27th November the funeral of John Harrison took place at St Laurence Church followed by cremation. John spent most of his working life as a miner. His great love was fishing and he was an accomplished in sea, coarse and fly fishing as well as being an excellent tutor. He cared deeply for all his family and will be sadly missed by Lil his wife, his three sons and all his family.

Olive Chalmers whose son Nicholas lives with his wife Theresa in Birchley Heath was born in Walthamstow, East London and spent much of her life there. But she also travelled widely including many happy years in South Africa. She was a lady tall in stature, well-read well-informed and very articulate. She moved to North Warwickshire to be closer to Nic. She leaves two sons, Michael and Nicholas family and friends who mourn her passing. Her funeral took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on Friday 28th November.

Candlemas

This year Candlemas falls on 29th January and we will be celebrating this special event with a joint service at St. John's at 10.30 a.m. Candles will be lit and handed to everyone present. There will be NO service at St. Laurence that morning.

St John's Christmas Fayre

Report next month.

Spurgeon Child Care Coffee Evening,

This enjoyable event raised £400 from the boxes and the bring and buy, many thanks to all who helped contribute to this wonderful total and to Margaret Oliver for arranging the evening.

The Christmas Bazaar

On a very wet and windy evening we gathered in the Church Hall and commenced our Christmas celebrations, with stalls, mince pies, sponsored carols and Norman Tomlinson's

display of his wonderful collection of Christmas lights and ornaments. Thanks to everyone's generosity a total of £946.68 profit was taken on the evening. The final total will be announced in the February Magazine.

St. John's Christmas Fancy Dress Party

Thank you to all who supported this event which raised a surplus of £209. This has been generously been donated by the Krazy Kettle Kafé to the building fund for the hall improvements, and the hall committee wish to thank them for their generosity and all their hard work.

The standard of the costumes was very high with many people not recognising the winners The Snowman (Janet Marshall) and Father Christmas (Steve Stroud) winning the adults section and the elf and fairy (Georgia and Callum Shaw) taking the children's section.

The Tower

We are now able to say that the P.C.C. will shortly receive the faculty, which will give permission to commence work on the tower. However this is work that will require to be done in the absence of frost and therefore we now expect it to commence in the spring.

St. Johns

The planning application has been submitted and a few alterations have been made. Provided there are no further queries etc. it is hoped that permission will be granted by the 31st December.

The A.C.Y.C youth club have paid to have additional cupboards fitted in the kitchen area. This work has now been completed and they match the cupboards on the other side of the room.

Temporary repairs have also been made to the ceiling of the hall where the old lath and plaster was giving way.

The new tables and chairs have arrived, if anyone wishes to purchase any of the old ones please speak to David Cove.

Church Hall

The new cupboards in the games area paid for by Ansley Little Angels have been completed and now all their equipment has been stored away there is a great difference to the halls appearance.

We have also been fortunate to receive a further grant of £1000 from the Baron Davenport's Charity Trust.

Hire Charges.

At a recent P.C.C. meeting it was agreed that the hire charges of the Church halls, including the annexe, will need to be increased to meet higher running costs especially for heat and light. For private hire the increase will be £7.50 per hour effective from January 2006 and for regular users the rate will be £4.50 per hour, from January 2007.

The Vicar

We offer our congratulations to the Vicar on his appointment as Rural Dean for the Nuneaton Deanery from April. Please remember him in your prayers and give him your support as he takes on this increased responsibility for the next five years

January 2006

As the older generations were shivering and motorists struggling with the roads at the end of November when we had a sudden heavy snowfall, the younger generation were loving it, as out came the wellies and sledges for a rare outing. As we worried about whether we could get home from Coventry, and what condition the roads would be in, the main worry for our granddaughter was she needed a carrot for the snowman's nose. How great to have the carefree mind of a child!

We were talking about taking the Senior Youth Club to the theatre for a performance of 'Grease', as they hope to put this on in the New Year. One girl asked if it would be real people and I said 'Of course it's real people. It's performed on a stage'. To which she asked 'Will it be John Travolta?' I said 'I don't think so, he is 30 years older since he made the film and quite plump'. She couldn't quite take it in. It's funny how an image stays in your mind and you can never envisage it changing.

I have always found seeing in the New Year very sad as I begin to remember friends and loved ones no longer with us. This is the same for us all, but after the parties are over, we begin to feel more confident in what the new year will bring, and perhaps how there will be new challenges to test us.

2005 has been a very trying year and very tragic for hundreds of thousands of people, as we had the aftermath of the Tsunami, famines, devastating earthquakes and tornadoes, which made last year life changing for so many. So, as we sing Auld Lang Syne and wish each other 'Happy New Year', let us mean it, not just for our nearest and dearest but for all people throughout the world. Let us extend God's hand to all and place them in His care.

At the gate of the year.

I said to the man at the gate of the year "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shalt be to you better than light and safer than a known way.

From: 'God knows' by Louise Haskins.

Marie Cove.