

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 979

JANUARY 2007

Price 25p



Vicar:

REV. PETER ALLAN

Tel: 024 7639 9070

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520
Tel: 024 7638 1833

St. Johns Leaders

DAVID & MARIE COVE

Tel: 024 7639 4114

Lay Reader:

MANDY WATTS

Tel: 024 7639 7654

www.ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 0800 389 4089

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As always the New Year begins with hopes and longings. We each have our own particular desires. Some we share with friends and family. Others we keep to ourselves or quietly share them with God in prayer. Whatever your hopes we are here to pray with you, and for you. Jesus never turned anyone away because he thought they were unimportant or their needs trivial. As the Church, The Body of Christ, we seek to continue that wonderful tradition of prayer and service. Do use us!

Last year I shared with you our hopes for 2006. How well have we done? Our full-time youth worker, Vicky Odans, has been in post over 6 months and has supported the youth clubs in Ansley Common and started, after the closure of Links, a new club in Ansley Village. Work on Ansley Village Church Hall is taking longer than we would have wanted but the work that has already been done is a delight! We hope that the work will finish soon with the new floor and, finally, redecoration. And at St. John's the Lottery Bid has been submitted to extend and refurbish the premises. In our worship we have started a new service on the first Sunday of each month. Designed especially for families with young children, everyone is welcome! I am so pleased it is going so well. For 2007 my hope is that everything I have mentioned - and indeed the whole work of the Church - will grow and blossom to the glory of God.

The New Year is also a time of looking back. May I invite you to our Annual Memorial Service on Sunday January 28 at 6.30 p.m. It is a wonderful opportunity to look back with gratitude for our loved one's departed and continue to uphold them in the love of God.

May I close with the prayer that in the New Year and throughout 2007, God will bring you joy and peace and embrace you in His love.

Your friend and Vicar
Peter.

St. Laurence's Church - Services

Sunday 7 th	Epiphany 1	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 14 th	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 21 st	Epiphany 3	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 28 th	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Joint at ST JOHN'S
		6.30 p.m.	Memorial Service

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 7 th	Epiphany 1	10.30 a.m.	Family Service & Sunday School
Sunday 14 th	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion.
Sunday 21 st	Epiphany 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 28 th	Candlemas	10.00 p.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School

Other regular activities

The regular activities in the Village Church Hall will recommence in the week beginning 8th January. Those in St. John's will recommence the following week starting on 15th as it is planned to give the hall a coat of paint during the first full working week in January.

From the Registers

Baptisms

On 19th November we were delighted to welcome in baptism Alicia Georgina Guild, Lucy Michelle Guild and Thomas James Guild. It was a lovely service for all the family. Clearly Thomas is quick to learn from, and follow the example of his big sisters.

Wedding

On 18th November Paula Askew married James Inglis. The church beautifully decorated and the weather bright but breezy

Funerals

The funeral of Joseph William Henry Reader took place at St. Laurence's on 10th November followed by burial in the churchyard. The eldest of six, Joe lived almost all his life in Ansley Common, moving from 159 to 158 at the age of 26. In work a skilled blacksmith, in sport a most able footballer and cricketer (he played into his 50's) and a dedicated walker, Joe was in character a true gentleman who expected a lot of himself, but asked for very little in return. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Ruth Scattergood, aged 89 years, whose funeral took place at Thurlaston on 9th November 2006. Many will remember Ruth running the village shop for at least half a century, for her uncle until his retirement, and then as her own business.

At her funeral the minister remarked on her remarkable shrewdness in business, her loyalty to friends and constant care of her family and many remember her with fondness and kindness.

On 24th November Mary Carroll who had celebrated her 80th birthday in July was buried with her husband following a service at St. Joseph's Church Arley. She was born in

Ireland and came to England living firstly in London and came to Ansley some 45 years ago. She always took an active part in all aspects of village life and worked extremely hard for all the community.

Candlemas

This year we will be celebrate this custom of lighting candles with our annual joint service at St. John's at 10.30 on Sunday 28th. Please note there will be no service in At. Laurence's that morning.

Memorial Service

On Sunday 28th at 6.30 p.m. we will be holding the annual memorial service. Invitations will be sent to all families bereaved in 2005 & 2006, but everyone is very welcome. The names of those for whom invitations are sent will be automatically entered in the book of remembrance and read out at the service. However any further name can be added at any time leading up to the service and will be included. Everyone will be invited to come forward during the service and light a candle. There will be light refreshments available after the service in the annexe. This is a service that has given great comfort to many in past years and we hope it will do so again.

St. John's

The Christmas Prize Bingo on Monday 4th December in St. John's Church Hall was great fun and a total of £170 was raised for the hall funds. We have to say a big thank you to the ladies who have organised the bingo three or four times a year for several years now. They now want to take a rest and if there is anyone, or a group who would like to organise the sessions in 2007 please have a word with Hetty Sharman or Joy Pethick . They will be happy to advice anyone, willing to take on this popular event.

Christmas Evening to be held in St. John's on Friday 8th December entrance will be £1.50. there will be refreshments and tea and coffee provided, but if you would like to bring a bottle please do so.

There will be a raffle and Christmas music.

The St. John's hall will not reopen for weekday events until Monday 15th as a coat of paint is to be applied to the hall walls to improve it's general appetence

Church Hall

We have now received the final payment from WREN for the work carried out on the toilets in the hall. We are sure everyone will agree that they look so much better and that the improvements have made a vast difference to the hall.

The P.C.C. are very grateful to WREN, for their support in this project.

It is hoped to have the floor and the work outside finished by the end of the year.

Youth Club

Please remember the new youth club that has started in the Village Church Hall on Monday evenings from 7 – 8 p.m. and is open for all children in school years 4-7.

Church Fabric

It is hoped the work will recommence on the church fabric early in the New Year starting on the roof and as soon as the necessary permissions are to hand from the diocese the work on the different aspects of the Church drainage will commence.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is now organised. If you know of anyone who needs our prayers, then please contact the Vicar 024 7639 9070 Mandy Watts 024 7639 7654 or Margaret Antill 01827 874520 to start off our Prayer Chain.

Pat Tests

The Portable Appliance Test is required on all "plug in" electrical equipment in church and in the halls for the last three years this has been carried out voluntarily by Margaret Oliver who has been fully trained etc, However now her work has changed she will no longer be able to carry out this annual test. The church will now have to pay to have this compulsory testing completed each year. It is not yet known how much this will cost as there are approximately 100 items involved. The P.C.C. did decide that it would be necessary for each individual group to meet the cost of their particular appliance. We extend a big thank you to Margaret for completing this necessary testing. All this testing is required by law in all public buildings.

C2nd

Second Chance Furniture Re-use is a charitable organisation with a base in Nuneaton at 1 Weddington Terrace, set up to provide "Starter packs" for those setting up a new home or needing to replace items lost in theft, fire or domestic situations. They require furniture, white goods, bedding, crockery, cutlery, pots and pans, utensils, towels and curtains in good repair please. It would be appreciated if goods could be delivered to their base, but for group donations or a larger quantity or items collection can be arranged. Telephone 024 7632 6189.

Christmas Tree Festival

At the time of writing the Church looked wonderful with so many trees. We hope you were able to come and see the sight. There will be a full report in the February Magazine. About the festival and other Christmas activities not included this month.

Free Will Envelopes.

With the start of the New Year so the next booklet of envelopes is now available. If you wish to give regularly to the Church please consider this way of giving as you will then be sure you do not miss a week. However if you pay tax Gift Aid is very beneficial to the Church Funds. If you are not sure how Free Will Envelopes or Gift Aid works please contact one of the wardens, Moreen Freestone or Margaret Antill alternative Margaret Kimberly our treasurer all of whom will be happy to explain how the different ways work, both for you and for the Church.

Magazine

As we start a new year we wish to mention that the price of the magazine will remain at 25p per issue or £3 per year for 2007. However for those who receive their copy by post the postage costs have risen to 23p for second class £2 now longer covers this. We would therefore be grateful, if when you next renew your subscription, add a further £1. bringing the total to £6. Thank you.

We wish everyone a very happy New Year.

As we welcome in 2007, it doesn't seem five minutes since we fearfully approached the year 2000, when we were told all computers would go down, 'planes stop flying etc., but luckily for us nothing happened. Although our family did have a scare on New Year's Eve as just as the clock struck 12 someone (mentioning no names) turned off the electric at the mains and everybody screamed. He did turn it on almost immediately, but for a split second we thought that all the predictions of doom and gloom had come true. However, my lasting memory of the millennium New Year was the magnificent firework displays going on all around us - it was fantastic, and the tradition has been kept on as the New Year sees many fireworks.

What did you have for Christmas? This is the question everybody asks, not only children, but everyone. It is strange how tastes change, and also the amount of cash that is spent at Christmas, but I was very surprised that some toys from years ago emerged again this year. There is the 'Tiny Tears' Doll which was popular over 40 years ago and very scarce. Then there is the 'Fergie' - the all talking, all singing, strange fluffy toy which was popular about 10 years ago, the ugly Trolls of all shapes and sizes and of course 'Leggo' which is just as popular after many years. So, when you ask a small child what they had for Christmas, don't be surprised if the answer is very familiar.

The weather has been very surprising this winter. The flowers have forgotten it is winter, as have animals, like Hedgehogs which by December should have been safely tucked in for the cold weather. Our Camellia bush was covered in buds in the middle of December and a garden in Coventry had a Canna Lily flowering among the Primulas. One gardener on television picked a bunch of pink blossom which should flower in the Spring and also had a couple of Daffodils out - this was at the beginning of December.

We will soon be seeing the Snowdrops and I thought you might like this verse by Mary Vivian called 'Snowdrops'

I like to think that, long ago, there fell to earth some flakes of snow
Which loved this cold grey world of ours,
So much, they stayed as snowdrop flowers.

Marie Cove.