

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

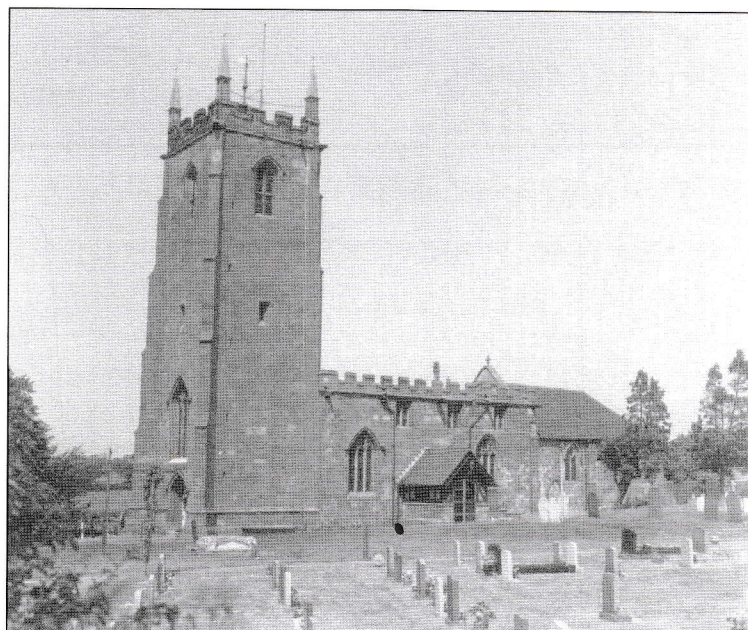
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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

So we're into 2009. What are we looking forward to?

Last year I thoroughly enjoyed three months off for my sabbatical. I won't get that this year! But there should be much to celebrate, to challenge and to comfort.

### Celebrate.

We hope to see St. John's Hall extended and refurbished. Whilst we can not be certain of finishing times as yet we should re-open in plenty of time to prepare for the grand celebration on September 27th led by the Bishop of Coventry, Rt. Rev. Christopher Cocksworth. We hope it will be a wonderful time with a service, a meal and plenty of fun things to do and to enjoy.

We hope to see work completed on St. Laurence's Church to bring to an end a major programme of restoration.

### Challenge.

Buildings have very much dominated our thinking in the past few years. A lot has been achieved, but it is time to focus again on what lies at the heart of the Christian faith, the love of Jesus. Our Church Council are considering whether it would be right to place the mission and growth of the church as top priority. It would mean prayerfully thinking of all we do, praying for God to show us where we should improve, develop or extend what we do in order to help others find the One who is so special to us all - Jesus Christ our Lord. It would be a costly exercise in time and honest reflection. We should not embark on it unless we are prepared to take it seriously. Please pray for the PCC as we take this decision that we may get it right.

### Comfort.

As we think of the wonderful love of Jesus may I encourage you to come to our Annual Memorial Service at 6.30pm on January 25. During this service we remember loved ones departed, we light candles in their memory and hear again the comforting words of assurance that the Bible brings. Please come. You are most welcome.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

## January, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany	10 30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Baptism of Christ	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Memorial Service

## St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

**Please note All Services will be held at the centre St. John's Close until the work on the hall has been completed**

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Baptism of Christ	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

## Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards. No activities will be taking place in St. John's Hall during the refurbishment.

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

Two baptism services took place in November. On 23 November we celebrated the baptism of Saul James Jackson and Ella Brayne and on 30 November the baptism of Ameleah Elizabeth Williams, Lily-Mae Olivia Elliott and Isabella Frances Louise Murray. Whilst only a week apart the themes were a total contrast - on 23 November we remembered the final words Jesus shared with his disciples and the next week as we started the story afresh on Advent Sunday we thought of the visit of the Angel Gabriel to Mary.

### Funeral

The funeral of Constance Niblock took place at The Heart of England Crematorium on 20 November. Constance lived a long life and packed it to the full. She made the best of every opportunity and was a most able singer, golfer and bridge player. A loving wife, mother and grandmother she will be deeply missed by all her family.

Our sincere apologies to the family and friends of Clarice Lees for miss spelling her name last month.

## St. John's Events

The Prize Bingo session held on 24<sup>th</sup> November was great fun and a total of £120 was added to hall funds. Thank you to all who helped and supported this event which keeps bringing in funds for the hall.



## Christmas Fayre

This year a different way of selling the raffle tickets was tried in that lots of much smaller books were distributed and to everyone's great delight all but two strips of the £500 worth were sold. This had a good impact on the event which raised £818.40 on the evening, with the wreath money still to be added. Again thank you to all who supported and helped with this annual event the proceeds of which are used to pay the running costs of the Church.

## Church Finance

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

Work is due to start shortly on the repairs to the church interior and these are estimated to cost £28920, whilst some of this will be covered by our insurance not all will. We are repairing all our plaster work, and other repairs at the same time rather than having the church 'up side down' twice and all the additional cleaning that will be required.

However this will mean that there will be very little left in the Fabric Fund. The legacies and very generous donations of the 1970 will all have been spent and the considerable amount of interest that has been received over the years will have all ceased to accrue. An appeal has therefore been launched for as many as possible to put their small change in a jar or old sweet tube and collect it for one month (It can be any month to suit yourself) and bring it to church over the next twelve months and put it in the jar that will be provided. You may find counting the small coins fiddly they will all add up and our treasurer will be only too happy to count them. Any donation to the fabric fund even a few pence would be greatly appreciated.

The amount raised will be announced next year and the size of the tree can be assessed.

## Church Yard

Those of you with loved ones in the churchyard, on the left hand side as you enter from the car park (where we are still burying) will have noticed how uneven the ground is becoming. This movement in churchyards is not unusual. The ground is always moving, and settlement will take place over many, many years.

This uneven ground is making not only mowing very difficult but also access for some of the older people who visit graves in that part of the churchyard.

The P.C.C. is to have top soil to be delivered in February and then lifting the turf and put in as much soil as is needed in to each grave space that has sunk. This could be an expensive task as it will all have to be done manually, we are therefore asking for able bodied volunteers to help. The dates will naturally be dependent on the weather, but we are anticipating doing the work after the Christmas wreaths have been removed and before Mothering Sunday. (March 22<sup>nd</sup>).

If you are free and able at any time next February/March your help would be very much appreciated, Please contact Phil Rees or one of the wardens. We are very grateful for the generous donation of the soil. Donations to the maintenance of the churchyard are always gratefully accepted as it already costs the Church £250 each time the grass is cut (2008 prices) which all has to be found if we are to maintain the churchyard to its present standard.

We ask for your forbearance while this work is being carried out, and also that if you do visit the churchyard to please use the correct bin provided in the car park

### St. John's

After many months of waiting it should not be long before we see some building work being carried out at St John's Church Hall. The exact date is not yet known, but at the time of writing the financial contracts are being completed and then the builder will be formally engaged. While the work is being carried out the Hall will become a 'Building Site' and therefore not open to the public. The Sunday services will be held in the community centre in St. John's Close. The youth club will take a mini bus to the Village Church Hall and Sure Start will suspend their activities until the work has been completed.

We are very grateful to our funders, Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) Veolia, SETA-trust, All Churches Trust, Awards For All, North Warwickshire Borough Council Area Forum Fund, Warwickshire County Council Community Development fund, The Church And Community Fund, Heart of England Community Foundation, and the local people for their fundraising all of whom are supporting this project which is for the whole of the community in Ansley Common.

### New insert

You will notice that the insert in this month's magazine has changed its format. Homewords have merged with The Sign and are now producing a single magazine insert. We have used Homewords ever since the parish magazine was first issued in 1893. The P.C.C. are asking you for feedback so that a decision can be taken with the agreement of our readers. The new publication is slightly more expensive and the PCC have agreed to take the new insert for at least the first three months and then for the matter to be discussed once your feedback has been received

### Christmas

The need to send the magazine to the printers by the middle of December does not allow a full report of the Christmas Tree Festival and our Christmas services and these will be in the February issue.

### Prayers

The P.C.C. ask for you to remember in your prayers the work being undertaken by them this year, not only on the Church's property, but also in the Parish.

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### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence and St. John's please hand the slip below to a member of the Church Congregation or contact the Vicar on 024 7639 9070. Please remember the vicar would be pleased to visit anyone who is sick, but he does need to know again please ring.

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Please pray for .....who is .....



January, 2009

When you read this Christmas will be over for another year and we are all wondering what the new year 2009 will bring. At the back of my journal I always put down the outstanding events in that year, and it is clearly evident that for some people 2008 has been very traumatic and sometimes very tragic, both nationally and personally. It has been very bad for many parts of the world with a devastating earthquake in China; a terrible cyclone in Burma; the Congo turned into great legions of people uprooted from their homes; magnificent hotels taken over by terrorists and many killed; the credit crunch where Banks all over the world have been in meltdown and people losing their jobs and homes and many personal tragedies.

However, amidst all the grief and the suffering, 2008 has given us Olympic Games to make us proud as we saw athletes from all over the world in harmony in sport. We too had our personal joy when we celebrated 50 years of marriage with many friends, old and new and relatives, many of whom we hadn't seen for many years, but I think amidst all this 2008 will be remembered in history for the election of the first coloured man to be President of the United States of America. This was the fulfilment of a dream of Martin Luther King as he declared 'I have a dream', and that dream was that all men should be equal no matter what the creed or colour. Well, perhaps this is the very first small step towards his dream coming true.

Did you know that it was 50 years in 2008 since the opening of the first motorway and the first direct long distance telephone call, which was made by the Queen to the Provost of Scotland. Of course many of us never thought of the significance of this, but can you imagine travelling on holiday through the side roads or can you imagine having to be put through an operator to speak to someone not local?

There is a site on U-Tube from OXFAM called 'Green Grannies'. It is elderly ladies passing on their tips to youngsters to save money. One lady was telling some children how to 'make do and mend'; how they would unpick woollies to re-use the wool. What she didn't tell them was that if you didn't wind it into skeins and wash it, then your knitting would be very loose as the wool would be crinkled. She also had them making Bread and Butter Pudding with left over bread, because apparently the amount of bread thrown away each year adds up to thousands and thousands of slices.

'Everything we know we learn from someone else'. How true this is if you think about it, and as we were constantly told 'You are never too old to learn'. Even Edison who was a famous inventor said his ideas were originally from someone else but they didn't do anything about them.

May 2009 bring us peace, may 2009 bring us hope, goodwill, good health and God's blessing on us all.

Marie Cove.