

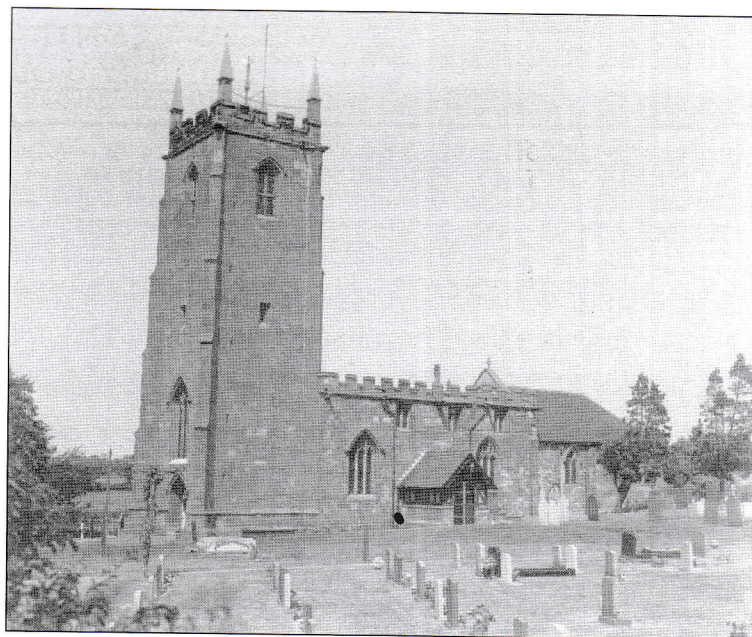
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1010

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What is the Church?

What is it for?

What is God calling us to do?

Early last year the Churchwardens and PCC reflected on the life of our Church. One thing we all felt was lacking was a readiness and a commitment to wait on God and to prayerfully seek His will.

We are busy and a lot goes on but is it all God's busyness? Have we got it right? Are we taking time to ask God what He wants us to be doing?

So after much discussion we decided we needed 2009 to complete the work we believe God had already entrusted to our care and then take time to pause.

We decided to meet weekly through Lent 2010 to discover His will. This will be followed by a Day of Prayer shortly after Easter.

It is ten years since we looked at the bigger picture and tried to find out what God is doing. We need to think afresh.

Much has happened since then. Much has been achieved. There are both challenges and opportunities that did not exist ten years ago.

Through the next months I will keep you aware of our learning, thinking and praying. My longing is that this year we take the right decisions to ensure that the new decade is a decade of growth in the lives of our churches - growth in our love for Jesus, growth in fellowship together and growth in the number of people who week by week share with us in the worship of God.

So how important will our time be together this Lent? Nothing could be more vital. Please pray for us.

Your friend and vicar,
Peter

January, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 3 rd	Epiphany	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th	Epiphany 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		4.00 p.m.	4 O'Clock Club Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 17 th	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 th	Epiphany 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 31 st	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Joint Service at St. John's
	Memorial	6.30 p.m.	Special Service

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 3 rd	Epiphany	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 10 th	Epiphany 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 13 th		9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	4 O' Clock Club
Sunday 24 th	Epiphany 3	10.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 27 th		9.15 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 31 st	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Joint Special Service

Discussing the parables Monday 4th - 7.30 p.m. 46 Nuthurst Crescent

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers

Baptisms

On 22 November we rejoiced in the baptism of Isaac Allton and on 29 November we celebrated the baptism of Alexis Carey, Corey Ward Wood and Tyler Summers. Both services at 4pm were times of great joy and we are thrilled to welcome these children at our 4 O'clock Club.

Funeral

The funeral took place at St. Laurence's on December 7th of Charles Grubb known to all affectionately as 'Dinky'. Though greatly saddened at the loss of his dear wife Lou he remained, after her death, immensely proud and committed to his family. He will be greatly missed by his daughters Ann and Diane, by all his family, by his many friends and by the whole community of Birchley Heath.

Candlemas

This year we will return as had been our custom to St. John's for this service which will be joint for the two congregations on 31st January at 10.30 a.m. It is towards the end of this

service that we distribute lighted candles to the congregation to signify the end of the Christmas period and the Lord as Light of the World.

Memorial Service

This annual event will this year be at 6.30 p.m. on 31st January at St. Laurence everyone is most welcome. As in past years the names of loved ones, if desired, can be given in and will be read out during the service with those who have died recently. There is no time limit to having a name added. Everyone will have the opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones who have gone before us to be with our Lord.

We pray that you will find comfort at this very special service

Church Yard

At the memorial service envelopes will be available to make a donation towards the cutting of the grass in memory of a loved one and their name as an acknowledgement will be displayed on the notice board for the month chosen.

Please do not think that this is the only way to contribute to the church yard fund, any donation any size is always much appreciated.

Maintaining the Churchyard to the standard we would like is expensive to just cut the grass every two weeks during the growing season has cost £250 each cut and with the growing season now almost a month longer our cost keep rising.

Dancing Classes

On Monday 11th January Samantha Haywood will be commencing Dancing lessons for beginners in Line Dancing at 10 a.m. and popular Sequence Dancing at 11.15 a.m. both in St. John's Church Hall. The cost will be £2.75 per session everyone is welcome. If you want further details please contact Samantha Haywood on 024 7674 8755. It will be an opportunity to meet with others and a good way to get fit after the festive season.

Christmas Coffee and Crafts at Dave & Marie's

Marie and Dave had a very happy day on 8th December with visitors coming and going throughout the day. Every one had a warm welcome and were able to chat and enjoy a warm drink and cake. The proceeds amounted to £101 and are in aid of St. John's Church Hall. Thank you to every one who supported this event and made it such an enjoyable day.

St. John's 'Soup and Sweet' Social

Full report next month

Christmas Fayre

This was a very happy event and over £638 was raised on the night. There is always more to come in from this event later, and the full total will be reported next month. Thank you to all who assisted with the different activities and provided for the stalls. It was a lovely way to start our preparations for the Christmas period with the reflections on the Christmas Story as we sang the carols.

Unusually many of the raffle winners were present in the hall, but to the delight of all it was when three year old Harrison won the door prize – a large teddy, which we are now informed is called Barnaby – his little face was a picture.

Christmas Tree Festival

At the time of writing the trees are in church and preparations are well under way. There will be a full report next month.

However we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came and helped put them in the buckets, carry them into church and then clean up after. It was a wonderful team effort by a lot of people, and it meant the church was clean and tidy ready for the 3.p.m. funeral.

Magazine

If you have picked up this magazine and do not receive it regularly please do contact Marie Cove 024 7639 4114 It will cost £3.00 for the year and be delivered free to all residents in Ansley. However it can be posted each month, but an extra £4.00 is charged per year to cover the cost of postage.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The total paid into our Fabric Fund in November was £92.50, increasing the total to £729.50 all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The jars will continue to be in Church.

At the PCC meeting in November it was decided that we would continue with this fundraising as it has been so successful. Please continue to save as our fabric will continue to need attention. One of the next jobs to be undertaken will be the repairs to the stained glass panel in the window on the south side of the chancel. At the present time we are seeking permission from the diocese to have this work carried out. When this has been received quotations for the repairs will be sought, a craftsman will then be appointed and the work will be carried out.

Stressful Times Advice from the Arthur Rank Centre

Worried? Troubled? Stressed?

It can help to talk. We're here to listen.

Would you like specialised or local support?

We can find it.

Rural Stress Helpline 0845 094 8286

Email: ruralstresshelpline@rase.org.uk

www.ruralstresshelpline.co.uk

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.

Please pray forwho is

Well, Christmas is over for another year. It didn't seem to creep up on us this year - it raced up and overtook us and in a flash it was all over. This is why I stick to the tradition to not put up the Christmas Tree etc., too soon, and then take them down on 12th Night, the 6th January. It gives a little time after Christmas to enjoy them, and of course we were told only to take trimmings down on 12th Night.

Have you noticed how many brands now say 'new improved recipe' or 'new packaging'? What I say is if it is something you really like, then they can't improve on the original. In fact there are now so many different versions of some items, you have to look for 'original' on the label to make sure you are buying the one you have always liked.

Spring Bulbs are already peeping through and with them will inevitably come the weeds, but now you can buy Dandelion seeds, as if anyone would want to. These super seeds can be purchased from Suffolk Herbs. You may think this is a joke but the named variety is especially for salads. They flower far later than the wild Dandelion, and then you can pick the leaves for salads.

Our parents told us not to pick Dandelions as this caused us to have a little accident overnight, but the reason I didn't like them was because they left dark stains on your hands, and I don't think we will be buying any Dandelion seeds.

If you have ever been to a Pub Quiz, there is nearly always a 'collective noun' question e.g. 'What is the name for a group of foxes?' The answer being a skulk of foxes. You may think this is a new idea, but that is not so as the first collection in English of such collective nouns appeared in 'The Book of St. Albans' published in 1486. This contained 'a business of ferrets', 'an unkindness of Ravens' and these seem very appropriate for the animals concerned. So if you are a quiz enthusiast, you now have one or two tips.

It seems that keeping in trim is not new, as King Charles 11 was a keen tennis player and he weighed himself before and after every game to see how much weight he had lost. He must have been a real pain as he wouldn't have digital scales but I suppose something like a large potato scale, and woe betide anyone who didn't get it spot on.

The wind is cold and bleak and chill, snow lies heavy on mound and hill.
The birds are cold, hungry and lost, searching for food in fog and frost.

This is January, loved by few, but still buds are peeping green and new.
Spring will be here before we know and soon forgotten the ice and snow.

Marie Cove.