

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

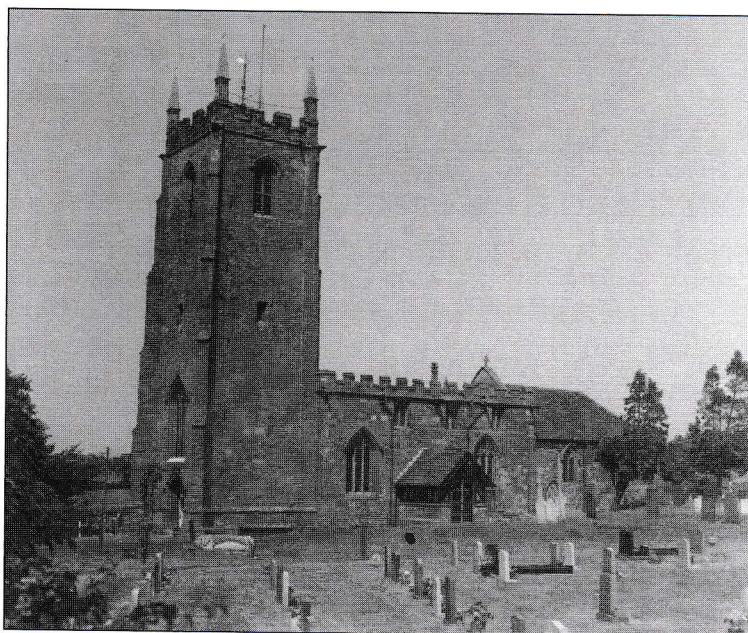
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..... And a Happy New Year!

January 1st is the time for starting our New Year's resolutions.

Yes if you are anything like me you'll already have broken some of them by the time you read this!

But failure should not make us disheartened. Rather we need to look again at what really matters to us.

So here are a few resolutions which are simple yet vital.

Every Day.

I will spend quality time in prayer.

Yes I know the value of quick arrow prayers, just as I know the value of conversations with friends and family during the washing-up. But this is not enough. Put time aside each day to pray.

I will read the Bible.

It doesn't matter whether you read the Bible or listen to it on tape or CD, whether you read large chunks or you read a few short verse and think about it during the day. Put time aside to let God speak through his word.

Every week.

I will attend worship.

Don't miss out on the wonderful habit of meeting together. If you can't get to church let me know so that Communion can be brought to you.

I will find someone to whom I can talk about Jesus.

This is harder. Some people we know so well it is hard to talk about faith. Others we feel we don't know well enough. But ask God to guide you. After all why should our friends and neighbours miss out on something so very special?

Yes we are busy, very busy. But in the busyness don't lose out on the most important thing that life affords - discovering, celebrating and sharing the love of Jesus. That's a New Year's Resolution that we should, by God's grace, try very hard not to break.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

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

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Epiphany	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Epiphany 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Candlemas Memorial	10.30 a.m.	Joint Service at St. John's
		6.30 p.m.	Special Service

### St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Epiphany	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Epiphany 3	10.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Special Service

Fellowship group Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m. in St. Johns Church Hall. Discussing the parables.

### Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

### From the Registers

#### Baptism

The baptism of William Henry Fulleylove took place at St. Laurence's on 21 November. As we welcomed William into the fellowship of God's family we recalled the father's unconditional love portrayed in the story of The Prodigal Son and we thanked God for the wonderful love God has revealed to us in Jesus. We prayed that William will know that love as he grows up.

#### Confirmation

It was a very moving occasion at the Cathedral on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November when Trudy and Chris Guise became confirmed members of the Church. They received their first Communion at the Evening service at Ansley on 5<sup>th</sup> December. We pray that God will sustain them in their faith throughout their lives.

#### Wedding

On December 11<sup>th</sup> in the company of family and friends we celebrated the marriage of Robert Stephen Murray and Donna Marie Hewitt.

#### Funeral

On December 1<sup>st</sup> the funeral took place of Nancy Williams. Nancy had a wonderful reputation of quiet friendship, committed service to those in need, a real depth of love and a strong committed faith. Except for her earliest and final years, her whole life was spent at the same home in Ansley and when she could no longer live in her own home she delighted in news of church and village. Her funeral service concluded with an act of committal in the church and her ashes were interred in the churchyard on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.



### **Candlemas**

As is our custom there will be a joint service at St. John's at 10.30 on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January to celebrate the end of the Christmas season and the coming of light into the world. There will be no service at St. Laurence that morning.

### **Memorial Service**

At our 6.30 p.m. service on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a special memorial service at which there will be time to remember loved ones who we see no longer. There will be the opportunity to light a candle and the names of any one whom you would like mentioned will be read out during the service.

Everyone is welcome to come, have the name mentioned and to light a candle no matter how long ago your loved one left this mortal life to be with our Saviour.

### **Prize Bingo**

The Christmas Prize bingo on 15<sup>th</sup> November was a great success with a total of £165 being raised. This event was in aid of the NSPCC. Thank you to all who supported, and to those who contributed to the wonderful array of prizes.

The next prize bingo is on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.p.m.

### **Marie's Christmas event**

This year the weather was icy cold and there was snow around, when Dave & Marie opened their home to their special Christmas event. However the house was warm and there was plenty of cake to eat and tea to drink. There was a good selection of warm knitted scarves, gloves etc, and other things on the bring and buy stall.

This happy event raised £110 for St. John's Church Hall. Thank you to all who helped and supported this event and especially to Dave & Marie.

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Full report next month

### **Church Fabric**

Last month we had hoped to have made a start on some of the outstanding work on the church yard wall, but because of the very cold weather it has not been possible,. However the PCC have now got the faculty (The church's form of planning permission) to have the necessary work carried out on the chancel and the old boiler house obviously work will not start until the weather is warmer, but the contractor has been contacted to enable the work to start as soon as possible.

### **Thank you**

The PCC are indebted to the family and friends of Eric Jeffcote for their generous donation of £400 to the Fabric Fund and a further £111.95 to the General Fund.

### **St. Michaels's Singers 'War Requiem' Fundraising**

Many thanks to all who donated to and supported my Coffee Morning at the beginning of October. A total of £51 was raised. Since then with the choir's efforts the final total has risen to £100.50 which will benefit the choir's finances even further. Most who supported in some way commented how much they had enjoyed the event.

The raffle prizes were won by Sheila (Alto 2), Rosie (Alto 1) Margaret Morris (Galley Common and Jan (Gwyneth's sister).

Both the members of the choir and myself are very appreciative of your support.

Gwyneth

### Christmas Fayre

Despite it being a very cold night (although not as cold as it was to be the next weekend) this was a lovely event with plenty of things to sell, especially the beautiful array of cakes. There were games to take part in especially the raffle and generally time to have a good chat. This very happy event raised £685 on the night, the final total will be in the February magazine.

Thank you to all who supported and helped in any way.

### Spurgeon Child Care

Once all the boxes had been counted a total of £325 had been raised and this sum has been forwarded to Spurgeon Child Care. If anyone would like to contribute to the work of this very worthy charity please contact Margaret Oliver. We would like to thank Margaret for all the hard work she does for this charity on behalf of the Church.

### 'Craft over a Cuppa.

Meeting every Wednesday 1pm - 3pm bring your projects with you and chat over a cuppa and cake while getting on with, cross stitch, knitting, sewing etc in fact any craft that interests you. A chance to exchange ideas or just have a catch up.

Small charge to cover the cost of room. Meeting at Ansley Village Church hall.

Contacts: Pat 02476 392555 or Heather 02475 392924 for more information.

All welcome

### Morris Dancing

We meet every Thursday evening 7pm - 9pm

Great way to keep fit and have fun while doing that.

No experience necessary, just a pair of comfortable shoes and a sense of humour. Sticks and hankies provided.

Also musicians most welcome to join our big band.

### 'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The total paid into our Fabric Fund in November was £16 bringing the total to £288 so far this year all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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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, 2011.

It always amazes me that the National Weather Forecast on many, many occasions gives the forecast for North, South, East and West, with not a mention of the Midlands, but I must admit that during the bad spell of weather during the latter part of November and early December, we seemed to get off very light compared with other places, so it didn't matter our area not being in the headlines, as our weather wasn't as bad as other parts.

Battling through the shopping crowds before Christmas, I got to thinking of how shopping used to be. As children we did our Mother's food shopping at the Co-op, Chapel End. We knew all the Assistants and indeed the Manager, and everyone had time to personally serve us. Some things had to be weighed like Cheese, Tea, Sugar, Butter, Lard and Flour and the Bacon had to be sliced. We had quite a walk home but the bags were not too heavy as there were very few tins. Also, we had milk, eggs and bread all delivered to our door and cereals were yet to be thought of. So, shopping was not a task but more like a social event.

The snow in November/December brought back many memories for me of 1947 when we awoke to deep, deep snow. My Dad dug a path for us 5 children to go to school, but it was so deep that our 5 year old brother kept disappearing and we had to haul him out of the drifts. We finally got to school, but we were the only children in school, so Miss Doane sent us home.

How many Nativity Plays have I organized or just seen over the years – too countless to know, but it is a fact that I could write a book on my experiences of these events. One year Joseph took Baby Jesus and held him tightly all through the play, refusing to let Mary hold him. Then one year nobody wanted to be Mary or Joseph – instead they wanted to be camels, donkeys or even sheep. This year I was amazed to see that parents can buy the outfits from the Supermarket – gone are the tea towels for headaddresses as now shepherds look very well dressed and angels also.

New Year's Resolutions are usually made with good intentions, but soon broken, but my one resolution, which is easily kept, is that I will continue to pray for peace – peace in our communities, peace in families, peace in our hearts and peace throughout the world throughout 2011 and beyond.

Marie Cove