

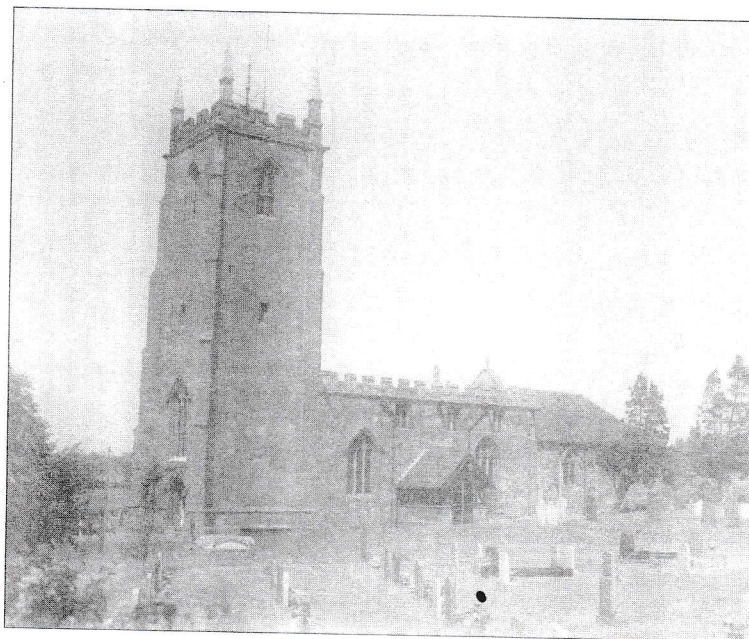
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Ansley Village, Church End

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Going for Gold

This is the year we have all been waiting for!

After years of hoping and planning the Olympics have come to London and not just to London. There will be a great deal going on outside the Metropolis.

Whatever your interest in sport this is a really special occasion to celebrate and make the most of. It's unlikely to come again for decades. ENJOY!

The athletes will be working their absolute hardest and, in the midst of bad news and recession, this is an incentive to all of us to give of our best whatever that best may be.

Every Christian can be inspired by the sheer determination, single mindedness and total dedication of all the athletes. That's precisely what St. Paul thought as he wrote about athletic competitions nearly two thousand years ago.

Do you not know that all the competitors in the stadium run, but only one of them receives the prize? Run in such a way that you will win it...They receive a perishable crown. We receive an imperishable one.(1 Corinthians 9 verses 24-25)

So let us run with determination the race that lies before us (Hebrews 12 verse 1) this month, this year and and for ever

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

January St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 1 st	Naming of	10.30 a.m.	United service at St. Michaels
	Jesus	6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 8	Epiphany	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 15 th	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	Epiphany 3	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 29 th	Candlemass Memorial	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St Johns
		6.30 p.m.	Memorial Service

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 1 st	Naming of Jesus	10.30 a.m.	United service at St Michaels
Sunday 8 th	Epiphany	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 22 nd	Epiphany 3	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th	Candlemass	10.30 a.m.	Special Service

Please note there will be no morning service at St. Laurence on Sunday 29th it is a joint service at St. John's.

Discussion Groups

Discussing the parables – Tuesday 10th January at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

'The year through the Bible' Thursday 5th January 7.30 p.m. 10 Nuthurst Crescent.

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers

The funeral of Daisy Lewis took place at St. Laurence's Church on Monday November 28th followed by interment in the churchyard. Daisy loved Ansley Common and, even in her latter years when she rarely left her home, always kept in touch with what was going on. A lady who adored family and friends, home and garden she encountered joy and tragedy in her life and faced all with a strength of character and a sense of fun. She is sadly missed by all her family and by all who cherished her friendship.

The interment took place on Monday December 5 in St. Laurence's Churchyard of the mortal remains of Charles William Feather. Always known as Bill, a longstanding resident of Church End, Ansley, he had a strong sense of right and wrong. He gave himself to community life not least in Ansley, where he served as Parish Councillor. He is sadly missed by his family and by his many friends

New Years Day

To follow our usual custom for the first Sunday after Christmas there will be a united service at St. Michaels on New Year's Day at 10.30 a.m. If transport is required please ask and it can be arranged.

There is not normally an evening service, on that first Sunday, but as it is a week after Christmas the first Sunday of the month, the evening congregation decided to have the usual Holy Communion Service at 6.30 p.m.

Please note there will be no morning service in either church that morning but the united one at St Michael's

Candlemass

On Sunday 29th at 10.30 a.m. we will be celebrating Candlemass with a joint service at St. John's. It is when we proclaim Jesus as the "Light of the World". This celebration is halfway between Christmas and Easter which coincides with the noticeable lengthening of the daylight hours. At this service we will light candles to represent the light that has come into the world and then extinguish them as we go out to bring that light to others. Everyone is welcome, but if transport required to get to St John's please contact one of the wardens, as there will be no service at St. Laurence that morning.

Memorial Service

As has been our tradition for over ten years we will be holding our annual memorial service at St. Laurence at the 6.30 service on 29th January. This service is for everyone who wishes to especially remember a loved one who now rests on that other shore. There will be time to remember, time to light a candle to their memory and the names of all those who have had their funeral in the past few years in Ansley, as well as others who are added to the list will be read out. It does not matter that the one you wish to remember died many years ago their names can still be added. If you are unable to attend, but would like a name to be mentioned please contact one of the wardens so that it can be added to the list. All names are entered into our memorial service book which is kept in the church.

Sponsor a Cut

As you will be aware the PCC endeavour to keep the churchyard as tidy as possible, however it does cost us £260 each time we have the grass cut. All of which the church has to find from fundraising and burial fees etc. If you would like to help to keep the grass cut in memory of a loved one please complete one of the envelopes that will be in the pew at the memorial service or alternatively contact one of the wardens who will be happy to arrange things for you.

Christmas Tree Festival

This event got off to a wonderful start on Monday 5th December with the arrival of all the trees, there was a great team of volunteers who worked hard together and all the trees were all in place around the church in well under an hour.

To enable this issue to be produced in time for the New Year a full report will be included in the February magazine.

Free will offering envelopes

These small envelopes may be small but can be very useful as it is a way of ensuring that you remember to make your weekly contribution to the church's ever increasing running costs if you are not able to attend each week. These envelopes are especially designed for

those who do not pay income tax (If you are a tax payer then the 'Gift Aid' system is the most efficient way to give to the church).

Church Flowers

To see flowers in church when entering is always pleasing. If you would like to put flowers in church, for what ever reason, at any time during the year, please let it be known and arrangements can be made. However it would be helpful if you could add your name to the list that will be in the porch or ask some one to add it on your behalf thus ensuring there are no clashes. Most flowers last at least two weeks in the church because the temperature tends to be more even.

Soup, Sweet and Carols at St. John's

Report next month.

The Christmas Fayre

This event followed the usual format of a Christmas stall, cake stall, guess the holiday destination of a teddy bear, how many sweets in the jar, raffle with 30 prizes and door prize. The evening was rounded off with mince pies and drinks and the singing of Christmas Carols. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all. The total sum received for church funds amounted to over £900. Many, many thanks to all who helped, attended or donated cash.

Marie's Christmas Event

Marie and Dave were delighted that so many were able to come to their home on a cold damp day and enjoy a good time together. There was plenty to eat and tea and coffee were provided promptly upon arrival.

There was a good selection of knitted goods as well as pickles etc. on the bring and buy. In all a very happy and successful event which raised £120 for St John's hall funds. Thank you to everyone who supported in any way.

The Queen's Jubilee,

At the present time the PCC are thinking with the support of the Parish Council of holding an event in both Church Halls on Saturday 26th May. Further details to follow

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The final total for the small change collection for 2011 will not be known until after this issue has been printed. The amount paid into our Fabric Fund in November was £36 bringing the total to £237. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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

First of all we would like to thank everyone who visited us or supported us on 29th November. Our house was bulging at the seams; there was lots of laughter; lots of tea and cake, and the pickles went like wild fire, resulting in £120 raised for St. John's Hall. This is really a fun way to raise money.

As I prepared for our Christmas afternoon, I realised just how times have changed. When we had Coffee Mornings and Evenings, many years ago, we had coffee made with full cream milk, scones with jam and fresh cream and, of course, Victoria Sandwich. Now people who come only have little milk (semi-skimmed) or black coffee and fresh cream is a definite no no. However, we still have the Victoria Sponge Cake.

I was reading some homemade recipes for colds and minor ailments and was surprised that eating plenty of grapes is good for a cough – by these standards I should never have a cough again, but perhaps this is why people visiting patients in hospital always took grapes. However, the recipe I really liked was for painful feet. Slip a Comfrey leaf into each shoe, which helps to reduce the pain, especially if you are on your feet all day, then wash your feet in a basin of warm water, to which add a few drops of peppermint essential oil. Comfrey seems to be a great healer, as a lady in the village some years ago, used to make Comfrey tea which eased her Rheumatism, and lets face it this grows in abundance in gardens and allotments in Ansley Village.

When I see young people scantily dressed, sometimes even when it is cold outside, I remember my husband's Grandma (she lived until she was 91 years old), as she must have been a pioneer of dressing in layers. She wore the usual copious underwear of those days including a corset, but she also wrapped Thermogene Wool around her chest. Then she had a woollen jumper and cardigan, a skirt and thick lisle stockings. Added to this she cut the sleeves out of old woollies which she wore over her cardigan. It was amazing as despite all these layers she still looked tiny, but she must have been like a little oven.

As I pick up the post, there are always lots of charities asking for money. If you added up the amounts per month you are asked for, you would need charity yourself. It was so different when we were young as there were very few charities. At Church we had an Egg Sunday when eggs were given and sent to the local hospital. We had a Toy Service a couple of weeks before Christmas, when all toys donated were sent to Henry Street Children's Home in Nuneaton and we had Church Missionary Sunday when the collection was sent to the Missionary Society to help those working abroad. Very simple but affordable.

May we wish you and yours a happy and healthy 2012.

Marie Cove.