

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Ansley Village, Church End

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**Vicar:**

REV. PETER ALLAN

Tel: 024 7639 9070

**Wardens:**

MARGARET ANTILL  
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520  
Tel: 024 7638 1833

**St. Johns Leaders**

MARIE COVE  
JOHN COX

Tel: 024 7639 4114  
Tel: 024 7639 4802

**Lay Reader:**

MANDY WATTS  
GWYNETH HICKMAN

Tel: 024 7639 7654  
Tel: 024 7639 8901

**[www.ansleychurch.org](http://www.ansleychurch.org)**

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**Print Centre 024 7638 6017**

## New Year, New Priorities

Every Sunday at St. Laurence's we say at the start of our worship the Church family prayer. It brings to God our hopes and longings for our church life. There is much we long to achieve but where should we focus our attention? There is so much to do and work towards.

In September the morning congregation completed a 70 question survey on the life of the church. The results were fascinating. Acknowledging that there was always room for improvement people were generally happy with the fellowship and quietly confident in the way they were serving others. They were much less happy in their own personal spiritual life, in their walk with God. The phrase in the church family prayer "deepen our spiritual life" seemed to sum it all up. What came across was that people were caring for each other, working together in the church and giving of their all. But in their unselfishness they had neglected the need to receive from God.

So the priority this year is not to do more but to grow deeper -to refresh ourselves within the love of God. In the rush of life, and not least the demands of church life, we need to say to ourselves: "You must set aside time to pray and read the Bible every day." But that is not enough. We must rekindle within ourselves a longing to listen and speak to God through quiet meditation, through intercessory prayer and through reading the Bible. That is the priority for 2014.

How we shall do that is still being planned - and ideas are very welcome - but here are some of the actions already agreed:

December 2013. Promoting Bible Study Notes at our services. If you haven't yet ordered notes for 2014 please do so now!

March 2<sup>nd</sup> (put this date in your diary now!). The Bishop of Coventry will preach and preside at St. Laurence's at our 10.30am Holy Communion Service. After a shared lunch in the annexe, he will speak further on deepening our spiritual life.

Thursdays during Lent we shall meet in the annexe at 7.30pm. On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup> we shall reflect on our personal Rhythm of Life and Prayer. These sessions will finish at 9p.m. On March 20<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup> we shall begin our PCC and our Annual meeting by reflecting in the first half hour on the spiritual life we share together.

Please make these dates a priority for it is as we receive that we shall give.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

### January St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany	10.30 a.m.	Christmas season
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Christmas season
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	26 <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

Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

### Discussion Group

Fellowship Group – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00 a.m., in St John's Church Hall.

### From the Registers

At St. Laurence's, on Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Michael Morgan interred the mortal remains of Walter William Wildig within the family grave.

### Memorial Service

This service at St Laurence's on 26<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30 p.m. will be an opportunity to remember loved ones, to give thanks for them and to light a candle in their memory. There will be time for quiet contemplation. Names may be added to a remembrance list which will be read aloud during the service. Bereavements may be recent or past ones and you do not have to be present at the service to have someone mentioned.

### Candlemas

Please note that St Laurence's congregation are invited to join St John's at their morning service to celebrate Candlemas on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 10.30 a.m. There will be no morning service at St Laurence's on that day.

### Forthcoming Confirmation Class

After the wonderful confirmation class and service at St. Wilfrid's I have been asked to run another course starting later this month, probably (but not necessarily) on a Tuesday night, and leading to the dramatic confirmation service at Coventry Cathedral on Easter morning.

This course is open to young people (16 plus) and adults interested in being baptised as an adult, being confirmed, renewing baptism promises or just looking.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested. No obligation! Peter.

### The Gideons International

Dr Graham Martin and his wife came to St Laurence's morning service on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November and presented some interesting information about the work of the society. A sum of £35 was given for their work in the UK, offering bibles to people from year seven children in school to patients in hospital.

### Christmas Tree Festival at St Laurence's

This magazine was being prepared just after the first weekend of the Christmas tree festival. The hustle and bustle of the preparations were over and the church was ready to welcome many visitors. The decorated trees, with their lights sparkling, made a dramatic impact on first entering the building. A closer look at the individual trees brought home how many areas of personal, family and local community life were represented. The ingenuity and creative flair of the decorators was very evident too. The response from visitors included the following comments:-

"Out of this world-thanks a million!"

"Magical! Thank you."

"Another great effort by the whole community-well done."

The time and energy everyone put in to make the festival such a success is very much appreciated.

### Marie's Christmas Event

This very enjoyable fund-raising and social event at Marie and Dave Cove's home on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November resulted in a total of £130 being added to St John's Hall funds. Thank you to everyone who helped by giving, or making items, or by being there to share friendship and fundraising.

### Christmas Fayre in Ansley Village Church Hall

The stalls, bingo and raffle set the scene for an entertaining start to the evening. After tea or coffee and a mince pie a more reflective time was spent singing favourite carols. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the event in any way. £628 has been made so far, including £345 from the raffle. The final total will be notified in the February magazine, after the sale of Christmas wreaths.

### St John's Hall Bingo

The session on 2<sup>nd</sup> December made £100 for the hall and provided fun and friendship as well as the opportunity to win prizes!

### Spurgeon Childcare Coffee Evening and Bring and Buy

The final total for this event was £370. Thank you again to all who gave to this charity.

### Philippines Emergency Appeal

£100 from St John's and £85 from St Laurence's was sent to this appeal after the recent hurricane.

### Soup, Sweets and Carols at St John's

Report next month.

### St Laurence's Church Cleaning Teams

We would like to thank everyone who is on the church cleaning rota for their efforts over the past year. We are especially grateful for the time given by a cleaner who is retiring from the rota this year. You know who you are! It would be lovely to have new volunteers come forward for the new rota which starts in March. Each team cleans the church three times spread across the year. Do speak to a churchwarden if you feel able to help in this way.

### Magazine

Please remember to have £3.60 ready for the person who delivers your magazine. If you would like a magazine each month do ask Marie Cove, a churchwarden or a church member.

### St John's Hall

Please note that Wendy Cooper, phone number 07833301655, is the caretaker at St John's Hall from this month. The hall is available at £10 per hour for private hire.

### Churchyard

The church has received £880 towards keeping the churchyard neat and tidy during 2013. The total cost for the year was £4520. Donations would continue to be very welcome.

### Financial matters

It is now just over 12 months since the vicar addressed our financial situation when our expenditure exceeded income and had done so for some years and our reserves were dwindling rapidly. The response was as has been previously reported, wonderful and the short fall covered.

It is pleasing to report that at the time of writing it is expected that there will be a small surplus for the year.

However as we are all fully aware that prices keep rising for everything we have to buy, the same applies to the church. Therefore if you have had an income increase and feel you can afford a little more in your giving please do consider increasing your contributions so that this time next year we will still be able to say our income has exceeded our expenditure. Thank you.

### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence's and at 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, 2014.

When you read this letter, Christmas will be over for another year, the parcels opened, the parties enjoyed; the carols sung and now we look forward to the New Year of 2014. If you look back to the 1st January 2000, it seems so long ago, but everyone was so worried that when the time changed to 2000 all the computers would pack up, planes would fall from the sky and in general there would be chaos, but of course it didn't happen. We can none of us, not even the greatest brains, forecast what will happen in the future, except we can be sure of one thing, after this winter is over, Spring will follow with new life all around.

It is strange how many words have different meanings, e.g. 'caddy'. A golf caddy or caddie carries the clubs for the player, and comes from the French 'Cadet' a term for a younger son or brother. Whereas tea 'caddy' dates back to the Indian tea trade in 1792, probably derived from an oriental unit of weight equal to about 625 grams which was called a 'Kati' or 'catty'. We all had tea caddies years ago before the advent of tea bags, when we measured the loose tea into tea pots by spoon and then used tea strainers. I bought some loose tea the other day but couldn't get on with it – too messy.

A retired couple have slashed their energy bills by half and drastically improved their health by living on British Summer Time all the year round. They started this 5 years ago because they thought changes in the biological clock could trigger severe headaches. They heard of someone who went to Australia, did not change their clocks and did not have any more severe headaches. Because they are retired this is not hard for them. The real difficulty is if they go to an evening function or meeting, but as this is very rare it doesn't affect them. Parliament is considering extending British Summer Time into winter, as campaigners claim it could boost tourism by 4 Billion and create 80,000 jobs. Brighter evenings would prevent 100 deaths a year and save the N.H.S. around 38 Million by reducing accidents in the dark, but despite all these statistics, I think we can safely say we will go on changing the clocks.

These are the words of a little known poet, Minnie Louise Haskins, 1875 to 1957. 'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown," and he replied; "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way." So I went forward and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of the day in the lone East.

Marie Cove.